

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Burning of Barns.

It is noticeable that a larger number of the burnings of barns is mentioned by the periodical press in the summer than at any other time. Some of the fires are undoubtedly caused by lightning, the moist vapor from the uncured hay making a favorable conductor for the electric fluid. But there are barn fires which cannot be attributed to lightning, to lighting of matches, to light from lanterns, nor to the invasions of careless tramps. It may be that the spontaneous combustion of hay is as possible as the spontaneous firing of cotton waste. All fibrous material, when moist, and compressed, and defended from the cooling influences of the outward air, is subjected to a heating similar to that of fermentation; and in some instances the degree of heat is sufficient to cause actual, visible combustion. In the case of recently "cured" hay this danger is as great as, in similar circumstances, other materials may be. Frequently the grass is cut in the early morning, while wet with dew; it is turned twice during the day, and gathered and packed in the "mow" or the "bay" before nightfall, with perhaps a sparse sprinkling of salt. Such a compressed mass of fibrous, moist matter will heat. How far the heat will go toward generating a combustion may be inferred from a foolish trick which the writer witnessed several years ago.

A large meadow of hay had been cut, cured, and cocked, previous to removal. A shower threatening, the cocks were covered with caps of canvas and left for the night. While getting the hay in, the next day, one of the working men dropped an unlighted match from his pocket into a cock of hay, and in a few minutes it was ablaze. It afterward was ascertained that he had spoken of the warmth of the hay as he lifted it on his fork, when a companion remarked that it might be hot enough to light a match, on which he put a match into a rick, and before they had passed on five minutes the rick was on fire.

Everybody conversant with farm life, where hay is a permanent and important crop, knows that for weeks after getting in the hay the barn is warm when the doors are opened in the morning. There is an amount of heat that is absolutely unpleasant when the thermometer outside registers sixty degrees, but which is quite welcome with the outside temperature of forty degrees. This barn heat is undoubtedly from the moist hay, compacted and enclosed. The cure for the possible spontaneous barn burning would seem to be a thorough curing—drying—of the hay before it is housed. We dry all our herbs and some of our vegetables without injuring their peculiar and individual qualities. There is no reason why hay or other fodder material stored in large masses should not be rendered equally innocuous to the influences of heat by thorough drying.—Scientific American.

Farm and Garden Notes.

Insure the farm buildings. Turned-under strawberry beds suit fall pinch.

Young orchards should always be kept cultivated. The value of manure depends chiefly on the food.

Save the best patches of timothy meadows for seed. Turnips and radishes may follow early potatoes and peas.

A common cold may be broken up in a horse by giving six drops of aconite every three hours.

One important result of tillage is that the soil is beneficially exposed to the air each time it is stirred.

Swine in pens will turn a vast quantity of weeds into manure if given the chance, beside thriving.

After the bearing season is over cut out the old canes of raspberries, and later on thin the new shoots to four in number.

In packing apples for shipment no one should be placed in the barrel that has the slightest trace of unsoundness, as such apples decay sooner than the others and also affect all in the barrel.

Lambs can be safely weaned and separated from their mothers at four months, and should not be allowed to subsist upon the ewes longer than five months, as they cannot thrive best while raising lambs.

It is said that the simplest remedy for worms in cattle, sheep and hogs is turpentine mixed with a little feed or given in linseed oil or gruel; two ounces for a cow, and one-fourth or less for smaller animals.

The Ohio Agricultural Experimental station calls attention to the fact that in its experiments potatoes raised from large, whole seeds, ripened nine days earlier than those from seed cut to the single eyes.

Close attention to all the wants of the fowls, and also to the sanitary condition of the house and yard, will do more toward preventing disease than all the poultry pills, powders, tonics, etc., in the universe.

Milk, cream and butter should all be kept as low as sixty-two degrees, at or below which point, if ever, carbonic acid develops. With pure food, cows rightly treated, with clean vessels and pure air, less difficulty will be experienced in churning than without such precautions.

Market gardeners find the growing of small cucumbers for pickles one of their most profitable crops. In most farm neighborhoods a batch of cucumbers for pickles will find market among farmers at better prices than the market gardeners obtain at wholesale for their crop.

There is so great difference in the feed of cows in various milk tests that the result is quite often as much a test of the

different kinds of feed and the skill of the feeder as of the capacity of the cow. If all milk and butter tests were made on grass as feed, their value to most cow buyers would be greater.

The great difficulty in applying stable manure to onions is that it is full of seeds, making large extra expense in weeding. It also makes the soil too light. Mineral fertilizers furnish no weed seeds, and their effect is to slightly harden the ground, causing a better setting and fewer scullions.

American farmers find that turnips or ruta-bagas leave the land clean from weeds, but much less fertile than before they were grown. English farmers say the turnip is a renovating crop, but it is so only by feeding the crop on the ground where grown, together with much grain or oil meal.

One advantage in the soiling system is the freedom from weeds in the feed, which with cows at pasture in summer gives a bitter taste to milk and butter. With corn fodder, millet or other cultivated crops suitable for soiling purposes, there is better quality and greater uniformity in the milk product.

It is a good plan in churning not to put in the two or three last messes of cream. If churning has to be done every day, it should be of the cream gathered twenty-four to forty-eight hours before. In small dairies the cream should be stirred slightly every day, to prevent danger of injury from mould.

To prevent grapes from mildewing, the vines should be sprinkled with flour of sulphur three or four times during the season. The mildew is a fungus growth which the sulphur destroys. If the grapes have begun to mildew, all that are affected should be picked off and burned, or buried where they cannot injure the remainder.

Some farmers only feed grain to horses when hard at work, thinking hay or grass sufficient at other times. This practice is not so common as it used to be, and deserves to be less so. Some portion of grain in the feed is both cheaper and better than all hay. When horses are not at work, grain and straw will take the place of grain and hay.

When grain fields are seeded with clover it is not best to cut the stubble very short, as it is more useful for holding snow in winter as protection for the clover than it can be anywhere else. But if the field is to be plowed after harvest cut as close as possible, as the stubble is worse than useless as manure for wheat, making the soil too light and porous.

Fungoid growths on the surface are the chief and probably only cause of scab in potatoes. If coarse manure is used, its rapid decomposition in the soil is liable to make the potatoes scabby and unsalable. A better quality, and, in most cases, a larger quantity, of potatoes can be produced by liberal use of mineral fertilizers, especially those containing potash.

Household Hints and Recipes.

For damp closets or cellars, put shallow dishes of slacked lime, and change often.

Hold your broom upright; don't dig, but push slightly. Carpet and broom will last twice as long.

The best way to boil corn is to boil it with part of the husks on it. Remove the silk and the tough outer covering, leaving the white inner leaves. The corn will be much sweeter if cooked in this way.

If the syrup in which plums are to be preserved is very hot when they are dropped into it, they will cook so quickly that they will not lose their shape, and if put into the cans with care, will well repay one for taking the trouble.

Lemon fritters are especially delicious after this receipt: Take one cup of flour, one egg, half a tablespoonful of butter, one tablespoonful of sugar, one cup of sweet milk and the juice and grated pulp of one lemon. The grated yellow rind may be added to the sauce.

The night before a picnic, boil some eggs until they are very hard; then drop them into a can or jar in which you have some pickled beets. In the morning the eggs will be pink and will be delicately flavored. If possible carry them in a can with the vinegar still on them.

Willow baskets which have become soiled or discolored may be made very ornamental again by bronzing or gilding them. The powder may be purchased at any drug store. It should be mixed with a little white varnish and be applied with a small and rather soft brush.

Tomato pie can be made by peeling and slicing green tomatoes; to this allow four tablespoonfuls of vinegar, one of butter and three and a half of sugar; flavor with nutmeg and bake very slowly with two crusts. If the potatoes are first stewed there is then no danger of the pie being too juicy.

Whipped cream with gelatine is an excellent dish. Take three pints of rich, sweet cream, sweeten to taste and flavor with three teaspoonfuls of vanilla; whip to a perfectly stiff froth; dissolve three-quarters of an ounce of gelatine in a small teacup of hot water, when cool stir it into the cream, put into moulds and set in the icebox.

Butter or string beans, if cooked and pickled according to these directions, are delicious: Wash them and steam them until they are tender, but not soft; put them into a jar and pour hot vinegar over them; sweeten the vinegar and season highly with cinnamon. Another way equally excellent, but which gives a different flavor to the pickles, is to boil them in salted water until tender; then pour over them the hot vinegar which has been sweetened, and in addition to the cinnamon has a liberal allowance of pepper; cayenne or black may be used.

The Year Without a Summer.

The year 1816 was known throughout the United States and Europe as the coldest ever experienced by any person then living. Very few persons now living can recollect it. June was the coldest ever known in this latitude; frost and ice were common. Almost every green thing was killed, fruit nearly all destroyed. Snow fell to the depth of ten inches in Vermont, seven in Maine, three in the interior of New York, and also in Massachusetts. There were a few warm days. All classes looked for them in that memorable cold summer sixty-eight years ago. It was called a dry season. But little rain fell. The wind blew steadily from the north cold and fierce. Mothers knit extra socks and mittens for their children in the spring, and woodpiles that usually disappeared during the warm spell in front of the houses were speedily built up again. Planting and shivering were done together, and the farmers who worked out their taxes on the country roads wore overcoats and mittens. In a town in Vermont a flock of sheep belonging to a farmer had been sent, as usual, to their pasture. On June 17 a heavy snow fell; the cold was intense, and the owner started away at noon to look for his sheep. "Better start the neighbors soon, wife," he said in jest before leaving; "being in the middle of June I may get lost in the snow." Night came, the storm increased, and he did not return. The next morning the family sent out for help and started in search. One after another of the neighbors turned out to look for the missing man. The snow had covered up all tracks, and not until the end of the third day did they find him on the side of a hill, with both feet frozen, unable to move. A farmer who had a large field of corn in Tewksbury built fires around it to ward off the frost; many an evening he and his men took turns watching it. He was rewarded with the only crop of corn in the neighborhood. Considerable damage was done in New Orleans in consequence of the rapid rise of the Mississippi river; the suburbs were covered with water and the roads were passable only in boats. Fears that the sun was cooling off abounded, and throughout New England all picnics were strictly prohibited.

July was accompanied with frost and ice. On the 5th ice was formed of the thickness of window glass throughout New England, New York, and some parts of Pennsylvania. Indian corn was nearly all destroyed; some favorably situated fields escaped. This was true of some of the hill farms of Massachusetts. August was more cheerful, if possible, than the summer months which preceded it. Ice was formed half an inch in thickness. Indian corn was so frozen that the greater part was cut down and dried for fodder. Almost every green thing was destroyed in this country and in Europe. On the 30th snow fell at Barnet, forty miles from London. Papers received from England stated "that it would be remembered by the present generation that the year 1816 was a year in which there was no summer." Very little corn ripened in New England and the Middle States; farmers supplied themselves from corn produced in 1815 for seed in the spring of 1817. It sold at from \$4 to \$5 per bushel.

September furnished about two weeks of the mildest weather of the season. Soon after the middle, it became cold and frosty; ice formed a quarter of an inch in thickness. October produced more than its share of cold weather; frost and ice were common. The summer and autumn of 1816, cold, rainy, and ungenial throughout Europe, were peculiarly so in France. Constant rains fell during the months of July, August, and September. But for an abundant potato crop, famine, with all its horrors, would have been her lot. The minister of the interior established granaries throughout the kingdom, where corn was sold to the destitute at a reduced price. Prices rose, however, to more than double, and hundreds perished of actual want. November was cold and blustering; snow fell so as to make good sleighing. December was mild and comfortable.—Boston Transcript.

Slaves in Timbuctoo.

This girl was being brought in by the Morocco gate, on the road from the city of Morocco. She was comely of face and figure, with large, dreamy, lovely eyes, and streaming long black hair. Her color was of the Olvian type, which shows the red blood coursing in the veins. She was of medium height and aged about sixteen years. Four old Arab "dealers," garbed in all the glitter and tinsel of the Orient, guarded this girl as if she were an Amazon of strength and prowess. One old Arab in a loud voice cried out her merits and nationality as the group passed on to the center of the town. Halting, the whole party were suddenly surrounded by intending buyers, both Christian and Pagan. They came up to the crouching girl, pulling her arms to and fro, opened her mouth and looked at her teeth, made her stand erect, and then haggled over the price. "She worth \$100," say the Arab dealers in one simultaneous cry, "but will let her go for \$90 if you take her now." Our dragoon translates and tells us how she will go to Egypt and fetch \$300 at a first bid.—Baltimore Sun.

Business Was Dull.

A country merchant who doesn't advertise caught a thief going through his cash drawer. "Hello, there," he sung out, "what do you want in that drawer?" "Oh, nothing," said the man, sheepishly backing off and trying to get away. "Well, don't let me disturb you. Just go right ahead, you'll find exactly what you say you want. I've found the same thing here for the past six weeks."—Merchant-Traveler.

Changes Going On in China.

The Chinaman is clannish and conservative. But he is remarkably free from prejudice, religious or patriotic, especially in matters of tangible interest. He has a natural objection to alter his clothes, unlike the Japanese, for they suit him better than any other. But he has no objection to purchasing the article which he judges to be the cheapest and the best, wherever it may come from. He is very sensible in his economy, and if he prefers the home-made article, it is because he finds it cheaper and more enduring. Native patterns of cloth, both woolen and cotton, if scrupulously imitated, will find buyers if laid down cheaper than the native article. Though the Chinese are conservative, foreign articles are creeping into use. Clocks, watches, matches, lamps, red blankets, are now seen not only everywhere in the seaport towns and near the coast, but far inland.

The Chinese, contrary to general opinion, have been found to appreciate in a wonderful degree the value of the rapid transmission by wire. The telegraph is being carried from north to south, and from east to west, along the Yangtze and Canton rivers. A line is working in Formosa. Begun with such vigor, there is reason to believe that the network will rapidly spread over the land. The telephone and electric light have made their way into China. Although the first railroad constructed in China, from Shanghai to Woosung, opened and closed in 1876, was not approved by the government—the line being bought and removed to the shores of Formosa, where it now lies—the steam engine is at work. This is on a line to the Kaiping coal mines, a distance of six miles and a half, constructed by Li-Hung-Chang. Machinery has been introduced not only at the Kaiping mines, but elsewhere. The superstitions regarding shafts dug through the earth, the "dragon's veins," are giving way. Mines are being promoted by the Chinese in various parts, but with great rashness, the fact that mines are utterly useless without communication not having been grasped. Gas has long been in use at Shanghai. The flotilla of thirty steamers, with a tonnage of some 30,000 tons, started by the Chins Merchants' company, has not been a pecuniary success as yet, mainly owing, however, to maladministration during the late speculative crisis. Insurance companies are at work at Hong Kong and Shanghai, doing an important and increasing business. In military matters while the late Franco-Chinese difficulty has clearly shown the imperfect condition of the Chinese forces, important changes have been effected. The most important have been the arming of men with the breech-loader, the drilling of Li's force, the establishment of dockyards, the introduction of torpedoes, Krupp guns, transports, and gun-boats on the European models. The fact that the military organization is still wretched and the administration corrupt does not vitiate the fact of progress having been made. The native press has made considerable strides. Commenced in 1863 with the *Shun-Pao*, there are now some half-dozen papers in China. Their influence is considerable and is extending rapidly. As a proof of their enterprise it may be mentioned that the *Shun-Pao* sent a "special correspondent" to Tonquin to follow the operations, though he very wisely thought discretion the better part of valor and declined to land on his arrival at Haiphong.—London Times.

The Cost of Royalty.

As a sample of what royalty costs the people of Great Britain alone, Whitaker gives the following annuities to the royal family:

Table listing royal annuities: Her Majesty (£60,000), Prince of Wales (£40,000), Princess of Wales (£10,000), Duke of Edinburgh (£25,000), etc.

The Jumping Bean.

Mr. Fred. Freilinghnyen, son of Secretary Freilinghnyen, possesses a number of Mexican jumping beans, which he procured from the United States agricultural department. According to Mr. Freilinghnyen these acrobatic beans are very rare. They are certainly considered a great curiosity by all those who have seen them, and no one yet has explained what they are. Each pod contains three kernels. Each segment is rounded on one side and A shaped on the other, greenish yellow in color, and in circumference about the size of a silver three-cent piece. When placed on a table they roll over and skip about, sometimes jumping a couple of inches. When held between the thumb and forefinger they are felt to beat as strongly as the throbbing of a strong man's pulse.

In Alabama is a China tree ten feet in circumference. Its top was torn away by a storm; but six feet up the trunk two more trees have taken root and grown up as high as the old tree is. Half way up the trunk of the original tree a peach tree stands out.

An observer says most of the centaurs in America are from Ireland, though there are many among the colored people.

We have deposited in our savings banks in round numbers \$1,000,000,000.

The amount of money invested in rail road corporations in the United States is upward of \$7,000,000,000, and that does not include the land granted by Congress.

A letter started from any point in the United States can be sent over the Sierras and the Rocky mountains to the most distant point in the country for two cents.

"It Knocks the Spots," and everything in the nature of eruptions, blotches, pimples, ulcers, scrofulous humors, and incipient consumption, which is nothing more nor less than scrofula of the lungs, completely out of the system. It stimulates and invigorates the liver, tones up the stomach, regulates the bowels, purifies the blood, and builds up the weak places of the body. It is a purely vegetable compound, and will do more than is claimed for it. We refer to Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery."

GERMANY expends \$30,000 annually for the maintenance of experimental forest stations.

Lydia E. Finkham's Vegetable Compound is to be had at the nearest drug store for a dollar. It is not claimed that this remedy will cure every disease under the sun, but that it does all that it claims to do, thousands of good women know and declare.

The New York horse cars last year killed twenty-four persons and injured eighty-nine.

"As Good as New," are the words used by a lady, who was at one time given up by the most eminent physicians, and left to die. Reduced to a mere skeleton, pale and haggard, not able to leave her bed, from all those distressing diseases peculiar to suffering females, such as displacements, leucorrhoea, inflammation, etc., etc. She began taking Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription," and also using the local treatments recommended by him, and is now, she says, "as good as new." Price reduced to one dollar. By druggists.

NITRE beds are being found in Nevada rivaling in productiveness those of Peru.

Throw Away Trusses when our new method is guaranteed to permanently cure the worst cases of rupture without the use of knife. Send two letter stamps for pamphlet and references. World's Dispensary Medical Association, 663 Main street, Buffalo, N. Y.

The electric light on Washington monument can be seen seventeen miles away.

An Undoubted Blessing.

About thirty years ago, a prominent physician by the name of Dr. William Hall, discovered, or produced after long experimental research, a remedy for diseases of the throat, chest and lungs, which was of such wonderful efficacy that it soon gained a wide reputation in this country. The name of the medicine is Dr. Wm. Hall's Balsam for the Lungs, and may be safely relied on as a speedy and positive cure for coughs, colds sore throat, etc.

NY N U-28

"Rough on Pain," Cures colic, cramps, diarrhoea; externally for aches, pains, sprains, headache, neuralgia, rheumatism. For man or beast. 25 and 50c.

Young Men!—Read This! THE VOLTAIC BELT CO., of Marshall, Mich., offer to send their celebrated ELECTRO-VOLTAIC BELT and other ELECTRIC APPLIANCES on trial for thirty days, to men (young or old) afflicted with nervous debility, loss of vitality and manhood, and all kindred troubles. Also for rheumatism, neuralgia, paralysis, and many other diseases. Complete restoration to health, vigor and manhood guaranteed. No risk is incurred as thirty days trial is allowed. Write them at once for illustrated pamphlet free.

"Rough on Pain" Plaster. Porous and strengthening, improved, the best for backache, pains in chest or side, rheumatism, neuralgia, etc. Druggists or mail.

The Best Butter Color. The great unanimity with which dairymen of high reputation have accepted, in preference to anything else, the Improved Butter Color made by Wells, Richardson & Co., of Burlington, Vt., is remarkable. It shows that the claims of imitative colors are baseless; wise dairymen will use no other.

The Hope of the Nation. Children, slow in development, puny, scrawny and delicate, use "Wells' Health Renewer."

Hay-Fever is a type of catarrh having peculiar symptoms. It is attended by an inflamed condition of the lining membrane of the nostrils, tear-ducts and throat, affecting the lungs. An acrid mucus is secreted, the discharge is accompanied with a burning sensation. There are severe spasms of sneezing, frequent attacks of headache, watery and inflamed eyes. Ely's Cream Balm is a remedy founded on a correct diagnosis of this disease, and can be depended upon. 50 cts. at druggists; 60 cts. by mail. Sample bottle by mail 50 cts. Ely Bros., Druggists, Owego, N. Y.

A baldheaded man, who has heard that the hairs of a man's head are numbered, wants to know if there is not some place where he can obtain the back numbers. Carboline will supply the demand.

Night Sweats. Headache, fever, chills, malaria, dyspepsia, cured by "Wells' Health Renewer." \$1.

25 Cents Will buy a TREATISE ON THE HORSE AND HIS DISEASES. Book of 100 pages, valuable to every owner of horses. Postage stamps taken. Sent postpaid. NEW YORK HORSE BOOK CO., 134 Leonard Street, New York City.

Beware of the incipient stages of consumption. Take Pils' Cure in time.

NEBRASKA has nearly 250,000 acres of planted forests in good condition.

100 Doses One Dollar

Can be applied truthfully to Hood's Sarsaparilla only, and it is an unanswerable and convincing argument as to the strength and real economy of this great medicine. Hood's Sarsaparilla is made of roots, herbs, barks, etc., long and favorably known for their power in eradicating disease from the system and purifying the blood.

Restored to Health "During the summer months I have been somewhat debilitated or run down. I have taken Hood's Sarsaparilla, which gave me new life and restored me to my wonted health and strength."—WILLIAM H. CLOUGH, Elton, N. H.

Given an Appetite

"Within a week after taking Hood's Sarsaparilla my appetite began to improve, my headache left me, my strength seemed to be renewed, and I felt better in every part of my body. I rejoice when I think of the good Hood's Sarsaparilla has done me."—CHARLES L. BARRITT, Syracuse, N. Y.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Sold by all druggists. \$1; six for \$5. Prepared only by C. I. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass.

100 Doses One Dollar.

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