FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

Saltpeter Solution.

Put one teaspoonful of saltpeter in a pail of water. A pint poured around each hill of cucumbers or squashes is very good for the plants and very bad for the bugs, both striped and black, which burrow at night in the earth about the plants. Cut-worms also are said to dislike earth treated with saltpeter. This is a remedy which certainly would be very useful to the plants, and if, as claimed, it destroys or keeps away insect marauders, it will prove most valuable.

When Hens Are Too Fat.

Replying to a correspondent, Farm and Home says: For your Plymouth Rock hens which are excessively fat and do not give you many eggs, the best morning food is a mixture of oats, wheat, bran, barley and corn in the following proportions: 20 pounds of oats, 20 pounds of wheat bran, 20 pounds of barley and 15 pounds of corn. Mix a portion of this feed with scalding water every morning, add a little salt and pepper, and throw in all the table refuse, stew, potting or scalding the mess just enough so it will be crumbly. Give them only a little of this so they will leave off hungry, and then scatter your dry wheat and oats together out of doors in the sun, or on bad days inside in some straw, leaves or chaff, so they must scratch for it. Give crushed oyster shells, good water, some green food until grass starts, and in ten days or sooner your egg supply will increase.

To Grow House Plants.

The soil must be rich for the perfect growth of house plants and should be of a somewhat porous nature, or made so by the addition of fibrous soil and manure. Equal parts of well-decomposed stable manure and half rotted turf make a good soil for most plants. If the temperature and moisture are right and the pots do not grow satisfactorily the application of liquid fertilizers, made by dissolving some fertilizer in water, will be useful. It may also be made by soaking a small quantity of stable manure and watering the plants with the liquid once a week. Fuchsias should be kept well to rest, withholding water during August and September if early blooms are desired. They require a good heat of heat, from 50 to 70 degrees, the former at night and the latter in the day time, and sunlight is also essential to success.—[American Agriculturist.

Gapes in Young Fowls.

What is called gapes in young fowls is not a disease, but the gathering of worms in the windpipe. How these worms secure a lodgment in the windpipe is still a mooted question. Besides causing the usual symptoms of gapes, the worms cause the chicks to cough and sneeze so that they collect in large numbers, warm, and [illegible] around the yard. [illegible] certain, and that is how [illegible] these parasites. W. [illegible] Worms [illegible] or [illegible] the [illegible] years previous. [illegible] the best [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible]. When the worms have [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] horsehair [illegible] and drawn them out. [illegible] to remove the worms with a horsehair loop. Still, some [illegible] fowls do [illegible] every [illegible]. [illegible] young chicks [illegible] loss, [illegible] with dirty litter make them [illegible] another way of expelling the worms, [illegible] always successful.—New York Sun.

Preserve the Harness.

A little [illegible] the care of the harness will not [illegible] longer. It will also [illegible] much more comfortable for the horse [illegible] soft and pliable.

If [illegible] are generally minded at night of the day in which they occur, and a rainy day taken two or three times a year in which to wash up and oil the harness, one hot will do as much work as three or four days not properly looked after. The straps can be easily mended by sewing the broken strap together with copper rivets, supplied with proper washers; or, better still, by stitching them together with a proper waxed end.

To oil, take the harness apart, and, after having soaked it for ten or fifteen minutes in warm water, clean each strap separately with a brush and warm water, in which a little sal soda has been dissolved if the harness is very dirty. Hanging the straps on a board greatly facilitates their cleaning. When almost dry rub them with neat's-foot oil mixed with a little lamp-black (other oils will answer the same purpose, but there are none better.) Leave the straps hanging in a warm place over night, and rub off with a woolen rag all the oil not absorbed in the morning. Then, after being put together, they are ready for use. Light harnesses are generally washed off with castile soap and water. All stitching should be done before being greased.—[Farm, Field and Stockman.

Butter Making

Much of the excellence of butter depends on the salting, and while butter that for any reason is really inferior cannot be raised to a grade of excellence by the salting, that which otherwise might be classed as good is often reduced to an inferior grade by the manner in which it is treated at the time of salting. A good deal of butter is churned to death; that is, the churning is continued to gather the butter so long after the butter has separated from the milk that it is pounded into a creamy, pasty condition, exactly the opposite of what it should be.

A piece of really good butter, properly salted, when cut apart with a bright, sharp knife, should show two clean-cut, smooth, and slightly moist surfaces, without any signs of a mashing down of the butter particles, and none of them should be found adhering in a sticky mass to the knife. When a knife is drawn through a piece of butter and comes out in such a condition that the blade cannot be seen, no expert is needed to determine its quality.

The two methods now in vogue for salting butter are termed brine salting and dry salting, each of which has its advocates. The former consists in making the salt into a solution before it is used, and in the latter the solution is made by adding dry salt to the water that remains in the butter after most of the buttermilk is worked out. So far as the result is concerned the object of each process is to surround the grains of butter with brine, until enough of the solution is absorbed to make them palatable. As the butter itself contains about 12 per cent. of water, that must be taken into consideration in brine salting, otherwise the salting will be too light. On the other hand, if more dry salt is used than the water in the butter will turn into a solution, the dry salting will be in excess and be shown in particles of salt undissolved.

To get the best results from any kind of salting the churning should stop when the butter has fairly granulated and before it has been beaten to a sticky condition by the process of gathering. At this stage the buttermilk is drawn off and the butter is washed with cold water until it and the water run off clear, when either brine or dry salt is sprinkled on to remain until the mass has absorbed enough of the solution, or more dry salt, according to the way it is desired salted. [illegible] it will dissolve. [illegible] it should work [illegible] the salt.—New York World.

Farm and Garden Notes.

[illegible]

Scattered [illegible] the chickens.

[illegible]

Spent [illegible]

Worse [illegible] the [illegible] chicken [illegible] or [illegible] natural [illegible].

It is [illegible] harder and [illegible] and [illegible] to the farm [illegible] but [illegible].

When [illegible] feed [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible].

Turn the [illegible] stalks [illegible] to that in [illegible] practiced by London market gardeners.

It does purchase more than two [illegible] to start with. If the farmer can manage these successfully he will have [illegible].

To keep sheep from worms and parasites of various kinds, which annoy and kill, dusting on them a superior dip [illegible].

Milking [illegible] and more than [illegible] of a specimen [illegible] are generally spread at the least wages.

A farmer to keep up with the times must keep his eyes open. In no state do I know there more improvements being made than in farming operations.

If you are thinking of building a silo, remember you can put it as near to a barn after having put the necessary money in as also the rest of the farm implements two crops.

Do not wait till cold weather before you provide protection for your dairy cows and other stock. Give them good, warm quarters and you will reap the benefit.

Swine farmers, if fed whole and separately, will favor milk, but if skim and mixed with an equal quantity of mangolds, or pulped and mixed with hay will not impart a bad taste.

A lazy, careless, slovenly person will fail in bee culture as in everything else. There can be no harmony or feeling of sympathy between such a person and this marvelous insect, whose name, for ages past, has been emblematic of industry.

The Bottle Method of Handling Milk.

One farmer furnishes Kansas City, Mo., with 600 bottles of milk daily. The method of handling it is as follows: The cows are milked as near 4:30 morning and evening as possible. The night's milk is brought to the milk house, cooled to 60 degrees, bottled, sealed and set in ice water over night, and not sent out in the morning until 8. The morning's milk is bottled about 5:30, and placed in the wagons for delivery from 8 o'clock till noon. The bottle method is gaining in favor. The housewife has a trifle more trouble, but she is sure of pure, fresh milk, with two or three inches of cream plainly visible on top, unmixed with the dust and dirt of the streets, the bottles are filled up and there is no chance for the milk to shake and churn.—[Farm, Field and Stockman.

USES OF ALUM.

A Crystallized Compound Valuable in Many Forms.

Utilized as a Medicine, a Dye and a Food Product.

To the popular apprehension the word alum describes a white, bitter, astringent which is used at drug stores, and used in the household for sore throats and in commercial operations as one of the chemicals employed in dyeing. Scientifically the word describes any one of a considerable number of chemical substances of different composition, but having their bases in common in the same general way. Alums contain sulphuric acid as one ingredient and some base as a second, while the commonest form of alum contains aluminum as a third. The third may be potash, soda, ammonia or lithia, while the metallic base may be aluminum, chromium or iron. The commercial alum has potash alone, and aluminum for its other base. But of the same aluminum is derived from clay. Other manufacturers derive their names from the leading bases. Thus ammonia alum has ammonia for its distinctive ingredient, potash and iron and chrome alums have iron and chromium respectively for aluminum.

As is well known, alum is a powerful astringent and mild or less attractive of some market. Our account of this that money it is largely to medical use, and in account of the latter it is extensively used in purifying impure water. There is hardly a town or city in the United States or Europe whose water supply is contaminated with drainage or sewage where it is not the custom to employ alum in the process for purification. It is now definitely settled by the special investigation of the American and of the European governments that the very smallest quantity of alum left in the water by the process is not in the least injurious to any man.

A large amount of alum is used in dyeing and print works, where it is chiefly as a mordant. The cotton operator [illegible] and then the dyer. It also fixes the colors, but fixes the dyes into the goods.

A second variety is known as Roman alum, which varies from yellow to [illegible] in color. It contains iron and [illegible] as its metallic base. It [illegible] from Italy, as well as [illegible] where there is a demand [illegible]. It has had for a long time a high [illegible] in medicine, [illegible] sore throat, new [illegible] diphtheria, and scientific investigation has shown that there was some truth in the old belief that the small amount of iron which the Roman alum contained increased its efficacy.

At one time both Roman and ordinary alum were used for pickling, but most kinds of meats and fish, but in the dairy operation it has been entirely displaced by refrigeration, salicylic acid and other modern methods.

A third alum is more of a curiosity. It is chrome alum, into the composition of which enters that precious metal, chromium. This gives it an exceedingly beautiful color. One interesting use to which this alum is put is the making of the finest green color known. This color is obtained by exposing an amount and chrome alum to a high degree of heat. The heat drives out the sulphuric acid and the ammonia, and leaves a perfectly pure and exquisitely beautiful chrome green color. It seems a round about way to treat the chrome alum, but it is by making the color in this way the cheapest way, for the crystallization of the alum from the metal from its impurities, and then by eliminating the acid and ammonia a pure product is [illegible]. Another recent use of chrome alum is the printing of greenbacks and the finest of government bonds.

A fourth, most important, ammonia alum is now largely used in the manufacture of the finest baking powders. Its use is based upon the remarkable chemical action which takes place when it is mixed with soda in a powder and baked in the oven. By the action of the heat the ammonia is expelled and the aluminum, its destructive neutralizes the action of the soda. It has been a popular fallacy that the baking powder makes a residuum of alum in the bread, but this, as explained, is the opposite of the truth.—Mail and Express.

Saving Thousands of Years

It is not nothing to try and figure the total expense of the wire fencing stopped and improvements, advantages which only people who are long enough to remember [illegible]. Does rapid transit, for instance, really save any great amount of valuable time?

Take a city like New York, where there are perhaps 250,000 people who go each day to and from their work. Remembering the distances travelled by some, it will surely be within limits to suppose that five minutes, on the average, is saved on each journey by the various means of rapid transit of which most avail themselves. This would make an hour on the twelve weekly journeys, and 52 hours, or say five working days in a year.

For 250,000 people this means a yearly saving of 1,250,000 working days, or reckoning 300 working days to the year an annual economy of 4,166 years.

Time is money and these are significant figures.—[Golden Argosy.

Juvenile Criticism.

Beethoven Ranger (who knows under the delusion that he is an artist on the piano)—Well, Master Reggie, would you like to be a [illegible]?

Reggie—Yes, first rate [illegible].

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

A gersh was an ancient cent.

A Boston undertaker is making two $5000 coffins.

The crab apples of the Pacific coast are as large as our common apples.

There are 3000 acres of peppermint grown in and near Wayne County, N. Y.

Four men at Gainesville, Fla., in 26 days recently killed 683 alligators for their hides and teeth.

A metre equals 39.3700 inches. The metric system is used in nearly all scientific investigations.

Dr. William Hammond of New York says it is possible for a person to live some time without brains.

A cat fell into a well at Akron, Ohio, and in fishing her out the owner brought up a satchel and $500 in cash.

Nelson Lee, who was recently killed in Charlestown, W. Va., was found to have his heart on the right side of his body.

There was a time when asparagus was called sparrow-grass, and it is so termed to this day in some parts of Great Britain.

A Kansas salt maker has constructed a "Lot's wife" of his product and sent it as an advertisement to the Cincinnati exposition.

Files are instruments of handicrafts as old as the early origin, being mentioned in the Old Testament (1 Samuel, xiii, 21) 1063 B. C.

The oldest kleptomaniac yet is Fisher Thompson of Boston, who stole 500 cotton handkerchiefs and 250 silk ones before justice interfered.

London has fewer inhabitants to the house than any other of the great cities of Europe. Vienna has the most persons to the house, having five times as many as London.

In the Jamaica papers the following advertisement appears: "Died at Plum Pen, St. Thomas-ye-Vale, on the 5th inst., Cuthbert Cowell, a native of Spanish Town, aged 122 years."

Sham battle flags, tattered and torn to represent the real article, are the latest product of French ingenuity, and are said to have served large numbers of curiosity hunters and patriots.

Boats were mentioned by Homer 850 B. C., and frequently by Roman historians. As instrument of torture, a boat "like lead," was used in Scotland upon the Covenanters about 1680.

One of the women employed at one of the larger clubs in Chicago is the son of a wealthy and prominent man in Holland, a former general in the army and the head of an ancient baronial family.

The ordinary coarse girl's demeanor when among those not of her own race is proper to a proverbial. She holds a handkerchief to her face, never smiles, and under no circumstances exposes surprise.

A table once belonging to the great Napoleon is at present the property of Mrs. Norvel, of Nashville, Tenn., to whose grandfather it was given by a French emigrant noble man who came to New Orleans when the Bourbons came back to the throne of France.

An executive [illegible] named Bidlecot, Scully, who died in [illegible] recently, was known as "the nor-bear," on account of a large red star of cloth which he wore sewed on his breast, [illegible] that it was really the polar [illegible], but in other respects was rational.

A $5,000 Coffin.

In Boston [illegible] too good for a gentleman's coffin. Two coffins just now in process of construction by a local manufacturer are to be used some day by a granddaughter of the Baron von Wurtemburg and her husband—will not cost less than $5,000 apiece. They are made of mahogany, seven inches thick, carved in bold relief with the most elaborate designs. All of them are in some manner emblematic of death. On the panel a spider—itself symbolic of the grim reaper—has caught the fly at last [illegible] and delicately [illegible] that [illegible] to breathe upon it lest it blow away. In another place a griffin's claw supports a human skull from a fracture in which a lizard is crawling. Still another panel shows an owl in the act of capturing a mouse, and so on, the intention being to express the idea that death comes soon or late to every living thing.

On the top of each coffin is carved a coat of arms, and every available inch of the interior is beautified by the cutting tools. Inside these superb caskets are swung two silken hammocks for the eventual reception of the Baron's granddaughter and her spouse. They are not dead yet, be it understood. Quite otherwise. But, having no end of money, they wish to die regardless of expense. A $25,000 mausoleum in a local cemetery will serve as a receptacle for the costly boxes.—[New York Graphic.

One Way of Raising Bowlders.

An ingenious Minnesota workman did a very clever thing the other day. It had become necessary to raise a huge block of stone about half an inch from its bed, and in the absence of derricks or other mechanical powers it looked like a hopeless task. Not to be defeated by such trifles, he obtained a number of ropes to the rings with which the stone was furnished, fitting the other end to the top of the windmill under which it lay. He then mounted the windmill and poured pail after pail of water on the rotor, which in the morning had shown sufficiently to lift the stone the required height.—[New York Graphic.

A Serpent Among the Books.

One day a gentleman in India went into his library, and took down a book from the shelves. As he did so, he felt a slight pain in his finger, like the prick of a pin. He thought a pin had been stuck in the corner of the book by some careless person. But soon his finger began to swell, then his arm, and then his whole body, and in a few days he died. It was not a pin among the books, but a small and deadly serpent. There are many serpents among the books nowadays; they nestle in the foliage in some of our most fascinating literature; they coil around the flowers whose perfume intoxicates the senses. People read, and are charmed by the plot in the story, by the skill with which the characters are sculptured or grouped, by the correctness of the word picture, and hardly feel the sting of the evil that is insinuated. But a sting and poisons. Which the record of ruined souls is made up, and what multitudes will be moulded, "Poisoned by serpents among the books." Let us watch against the serpent and read only that which is instructive and profitable.

Liberality.

"Is this all you can give me?" said a tramp to the lady of the house, when she handed him a cupful of cold water in a tin cup.

"O, no, I can give you a whole bucketful, with soap and a towel, but I don't believe you want it, do you?"

The tramp hurried away with all speed.—[illegible]

Settled for a Moment.

"There" exclaimed an inexperienced young woman at the Polo grounds as a Welch handed the ball in the point of the hurdle field department, while the latter lay down and tore up handfuls of grass. "He has hit him at last. Does that win the game?"—New York Sun.

Not Dangerous.

Little girl (to lady caller)—Sister's awful sorry, but she can't see you to-day.

Lady (compassionately)—I am very sorry. Which, I hope she is not ill?

Little girl—Oh, no; she's getting engaged.—[Harper's Young People.

Cure for Rheumatism.

G. G. Trout of West Greenville, Mercer Co., Pa., writes: [illegible] Rheumatism [illegible] Pain in the side or back, weak back, kidneys and all weaknesses, this medicine proves wonderfully curative. I have recommended them to my relatives and the highest praise many of whom live in Allegheny, Pittsburgh and other places, I know it would be a great blessing to many invalids if they knew of this medicine. Inquiry [illegible] have been [illegible] and the result has been wonderfully satisfactory.

Why is [illegible] like another? Because [illegible] the [illegible] supper is [illegible].

A Babe in the House

[illegible]

Settled Conventional "Mason" Resolutions.

Whereas, The Mason Bazar, L. N. A. A. [illegible] Resolved, That [illegible] the Pullman [illegible] between the Northern and [illegible] Northwest and [illegible] "Mason" system [illegible] Resolved, That [illegible] Resolved, That [illegible] Resolved, That