

**A Poet's Turn of Luck.**

When six years ago Joaquin Miller went to California and bought a tract of land a mile east of Oakland people laughed, writes E. W. Bok. And for a number of years the poet himself almost believed that the people were right. Miller bought at that time what was probably one of the most unpromising pieces of property in California. The tract consisted of 100 acres, and nearly all of it lay on a steep and stony mountain side. The eccentric poet went at the cultivation of his new possession with a will. And he did mostly all of his work alone. Soon the property began to show the hand of progress. But it required work of the hardest kind. And during all this time the land was fast proving, even the poet almost believed, the worst type of an "elephant." Now, however, the land is almost a park of the most picturesque order. On it the poet has planted 25,000 fruit trees, hundreds of olive trees, and miles of rare roses. Springs were introduced; trout brooks were stocked; walks and drives were made. Water is plentiful on the place, and that counts for everything in a California place. The poet is now, I am told, beginning to take the rewards for his labors. He ships his roses to Denver in the winter, and four weeks ago one of his first shipments came to the New York market. The roses are of the finest specimens, commanding good prices, and from this branch of his possessions alone it is not unlikely that Joaquin Miller may soon receive a neat little income. His place is in the direct growing line of Oakland, and the city is gradually approaching the poet's habitation. He does but little work with the pen, but devotes nearly all his time to the further cultivation of his place and the development of the industries possible from its products.—New York Recorder.

**Dyspepsia Preventative.**

An experienced physician is credited by the Western Rural with the following gratuitous prescription, faithful use of which, he avers, would do away with dyspepsia eleven times out of twelve: "People not habitually great eaters are guilty of serious indigestion in the time and manner of taking food. Half the people I know have violent attacks of indigestion because they persist in eating hearty meals when in an exhausted condition. They seem never able or willing to realize that there are three when the system is in no fit state to grapple with a full meal. They come in tired and hungry, almost ravenous, not thinking that maybe a good deal of what they consider hunger is gastric irritation, then sit down to a table and overeat the already saturated vital powers. As a rule no person should eat when very hungry. The wise thing to do is to drink a cup of water with three or four tablespoonfuls of milk in, sit down five minutes and then begin slowly to eat and eat very sparingly."

At Minors the German simply dives to a depth of seventy feet with a weight in one hand to carry him down. With the other hand he carries up as many pearl oysters as he can pry and brings them up to the boat.



**Four Physicians Failed A Running Sore Five Years**

Hood's Sarsaparilla Perfectly Cured  
Tarrant, Mass., Jan. 9, 1890.  
"I was troubled with a running sore on my ankle, the doctors pronounced it a salt rheum. For five years it did not heal. I employed a different physician, but received very little, if any, benefit, and it continued to increase in size. I then commenced taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, and using Hood's Olive Ointment, and at the end of three weeks I was completely cured, and have had no trouble with it since."  
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**"August Flower"**

"I am happy to state to you and to suffering humanity, that my wife has used your wonderful remedy, August Flower, for sick headache and palpitation of the heart, with satisfactory results. For several years she has been a great sufferer, has been under the treatment of eminent physicians in this city and Boston, and found little relief. She was induced to try August Flower, which gave immediate relief. We cannot say too much for it." L. C. Frost, Springfield, Mass.

**FOR FARM AND GARDEN.**

**AN EXPERIMENT IN SUBSOILING.**  
The value of subsoiling was tested at the Kansas experiment station by subsoiling forty acres to the depth of eighteen inches, while another was simply plowed to the usual depth. Both were sowed to cane of the same variety, with equal care and cultivation. On the field which was subsoiled the yield was eighteen tons of cane to the acre, while on the other field the best yield was only ten tons to the acre. The average rainfall of Kansas is much less than that of some other sections, however, and subsoiling might not prove so profitable everywhere.—[New York World.]

**MANAGEMENT OF CALVES.**

The young calves will be very thankful for a small allowance of mixed meal and bran, given once a day. If this is given by hand, in a dish, it will tame the young things and make them so docile that there will be no trouble when the calves grow up to cow's estate, and must be milked and handled. A heifer coming in should never need to be broken. This training, not breaking, should be done early and in the winter when the opportunities are plenty, and if well done there will be no bad habits to be broken. The care should be to lead the young animal by degrees from one stage to another to perfect familiarity with its keeper. There will be no vicious or refractory cows in a dairy managed in this way.—[American Agriculturist.]

**GROWING SMALL FRUITS.**

To grow small fruit plants, like strawberries, raspberries, etc., from the seed, requires a good deal of painstaking work, which is done mainly, if not solely, for the purpose of producing new varieties. The method is as follows: The fruit is gathered when perfectly ripe and manipulated so as to crush the pulp thoroughly and yet not bruise the seeds. The seeds are then washed out, dried and sown either broadcast or in drills. They can all be sown in the fall, though, with the exception of strawberries, they will not usually germinate until spring. So they can be sown in the spring. When grape seeds are kept until spring, it is best to soak them for 24 hours in tepid water before sowing, as the outer shell, or covering, becomes very hard, and soaking is necessary to soften it, in order to give a good germination. Sow in a sandy loam, well prepared, and cover the seeds an inch deep. The work of cultivating will be easier if the sowing is done in drills or rows. There is so much uncertainty about the quality of the fruit from the seedling plants that this mode of propagation is advisable only as an experiment for the purpose of developing new varieties. It is practiced mainly by nurserymen.—[St. Louis Republic.]

**CHOOSING A BREED.**

Many failures in practical poultry-keeping are due to the choice of the wrong breed of fowls. For the fancier, who breeds for pleasure, the advice to select the breed he likes the best may be sufficient, but for the practical poultryman such advice is not sufficient. He should choose a breed, first, for the special object in view, whether eggs, or poultry, or a combination of the two; secondly, for the requirements of his market whether the eggs must be white or colored, or the skin of the poultry yellow or white, thirdly, for his situation, whether it be a cold and exposed one, or a warm and sunny one, as some breeds do admirably in one situation and but indifferently or wretchedly in another. The Dorking, for example, is a failure in a damp situation, but in its native home it is a great success. Having selected for these reasons, he can usually give play to his fancy in colors. Many breeds have several varieties—the Leghorn, for example, has no less than nine, the Cochin four and so on. If the breed answers his purpose, usually one variety of that breed will be nearly as well suited to that purpose as another, and he can select the variety he likes best. But if one variety be better suited to his purpose than the others of the breed, even if he likes some other variety better, he should select the one best suited to bring the results he is seeking. To do otherwise is to adopt unbusinesslike methods, and invite failure.—[American Agriculturist.]

**FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.**

Millet is a good grain to feed whole to young chickens.  
Oats form a good diet to reduce the fat of hens that are too fat to lay.  
Do not expect an incubator to hatch a better percentage of eggs than the hen.  
Where stock is properly kept, the cheapest growth is made under one year old.  
It is useless to keep stock for profitable beef production unless good stock is selected.  
If it is too often the case that when pullets are yarded with the old hens they are only half fed.  
If given her liberty the turkey hen will nearly always make her nest away from the farm buildings.  
Just before the eggs are expected to hatch it will be a good plan to examine the nests and eggs for lice.  
Plymouth Rocks pay best when two years old and should nearly always be sold when past three years old.  
If possible set duck eggs under hens, as they make better mothers and will find feed for the ducklings, which a duck will not do.  
A Bad Crop.  
Two English countrymen recently met in a lane. "Hello!" said one, "there's been a conference?" "A conference! What's conference?" was the astonished reply.  
"Don't you know what a conference is?" retorted the speaker. "Well, it's a place where parsons meet and swap sermons."  
"Swap sermons, do they? Well, then, our parson must be an unlucky man, for he alters gets a crop of bad ones."

It is worth while to give a little careful attention to getting the ground ready for making garden. On the first day when it is possible to get out, rake up all of the odds and ends into a pile in one corner of the yard. Leaves, stalks, old roots and the like may be piled up, a little earth thrown up around the sides of the heap, leaving the top open. Upon this pour all of the odds from the weekly wash and any dish-water or slops that are to be thrown out. This will serve a double purpose by keeping the water from the back-yard and also preparing a most useful and valuable fertilizer for the garden-beds. Any bits of soil or decayed vegetable are a useful addition to this heap, provided they are thoroughly soaked and kept at some distance from the house.

**QUAINT AND CURIOUS.**

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How Mountains Got Their Names.  
Mountains and mountain ranges in the United States, and indeed, the world over, have usually been named not by the mountaineers themselves, but by the dwellers in the plains, who saw the mountains as a more or less distant prospect. It sometimes happens that a mountain or a mountain range bears two names because of different aspects presented to dwellers on each side. The several Blue and Blue Ridge Mountains were named manifestly by those to whom the ranges presented themselves against a more or less distant horizon. One of the green mountains in Vermont is called Bald Face by dwellers in the Adirondack region about Paul Smith's, a name justified by the aspect of the mountain from that part of the wilderness. Our own Adirondack Sugar Loaf could never have been named by a dweller upon its own top. The Orange Mountains took their name, however, not from their sunset aspect as seen from the lowlands, but are only another evidence of the affection with which Dutchmen cling to the name orange, an affection which has led them to fix that name on the map in whatever part of the world they may have tarried.—[New York Sun.]

**CARE OF SHEEP IN THE SPRING.**

One important item in sheep management, writes a correspondent of the St. Louis Republic, is to keep in a good thrifty condition. It is only when being fed for market that it is necessary to fatten them. In the spring it is not a good plan to turn the sheep out into the pastures until the grass has made growth enough to furnish them with a full feed.  
The early growth of grass is nearly always watery and on this account furnishes but little nutriment, and when, in addition, the sheep must be content with short rations the results are rarely satisfactory. With all kinds of stock it is quite an item to make the change from dry to green feed gradually. While a variety is always best, it should be understood that all radical changes should be made by degrees, and no change is of more importance than that of getting on dry feed in the fall and changing to green feed in the spring.  
In most cases it will be best to continue giving dry feed for several days after the sheep are turned into the pastures. A very good plan of management with sheep is to pen or shelter them at night and feed dry feed and then let them run in the pastures during the day, at first feeding them, not for only a short time and increasing as they become accustomed to the change.  
Sleep at this season should be kept out of the rain, and it is better to confine rather than to allow them to be exposed to wet. Keep salt where they can help themselves. This is especially necessary when they are first turned out on the pastures. They should also have access to plenty of water. It will pay to continue giving the ewes, that are suckling lambs a light feed of grain daily, and it will also be best to do this with the lambs that are intended for early market, as it is especially an item with these to push as rapidly as possible.  
It is nearly always best to shear as early as the season will admit. Whenever the weather is warm and settled the work should be done. In fact, it will be best to shear at night, and on rainy days a few times rather than let the sheep carry their wool after the weather gets warm.  
Before the sheep are turned into the pastures all the lambs should be docked and the males castrated. This is necessary not only in order to maintain health, but also to avoid the loss of more or less wool. After the sheep get accustomed to the grass they will usually need very little attention until time to shear, and should under ordinary conditions make a rapid gain.

**GRASS AND SHEEP.**

A pail of strong potash or soda-water will do much toward hastening the process of assimilation, and the potash is an invaluable agent for destroying any germs of disease that may possibly lurk about such a place. A little care in this direction will provide a number of bushels of the most useful compost. This is excellent for lettuce and radish-beds and should be worked in to about three or four inches of the top soil. On heavy or clayey lands this may be still further improved and increased by the addition of ashes either from coal or wood. The ashes should be passed through a fine sieve so that no cinders or coal will remain in them. Add this to the compost heap, work the mass thoroughly into the garden beds, and the results will repay the time and trouble of preparing it.—[New York Ledger.]

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**Greece Soon to be an Island.**

The scheme for cutting a canal across the Isthmus of Corinth has had its periods of trouble and depression like other and greater enterprises of the same character, but it appears to be now rapidly approaching completion. The concession was originally granted by the Greek Government in May 1881, to General Turr, with whom was associated M. de Lesseps. After the original capital had been absorbed and the operations for some time suspended, the operations were taken up by a new company, who in 1890 undertook to complete the works on March 10, 1893, under a penalty of \$20,000 per month for any delay after that date; but, unfortunately, about this time last year a waterspout passed over the works, flooding the excavations. The disaster necessitated a slight extension of the term, but the contractors now promise that a large steamer will grow through the canal on the twenty-third of April next. Great efforts are being made to render the system of light-houses adequate. The Corinth Canal, which will have cost from first to last \$13,750,000, will be lit by electricity, with two powerful lights at each end, and a row of lights through its entire length.—London News.

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**Boiling Water in an Envelope.**

"My wife and I," says a travelling man, "were once in a hotel where we couldn't get any boiling water. After we had discussed the situation my wife asked me if I had an envelope in my satchel. I got one out, when she told me to fill it with water and hold it over the gas jet. I hesitated, but finally did it, and expected to see the envelope blaze up every moment. But it didn't blaze. The envelope took on a little soot but that was all. The water boiled in time, and the envelope was as good as ever when the experiment was at an end. I don't know the chemistry of the process, but try it yourself and see if it will not work."—Chicago Herald.

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