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Whiskies are as injurious as adulterated
Drugs, and the effect on the system is
precisely the same—it kills. I would
state from my own knowledge that I.
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WHISKEY is not adulterated; and on
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THE FARM AND GARDEN.

CROSSING OF CORN.

All farmers are aware that different varieties of corn will mix, as it is called, and some attention is usually paid in planting to prevent it where it would unfavorably affect a choice variety. This crossing, wherever it occurs, is caused by the fertilization of the pistils, the silk, of one variety by the pollen distributed from the tassels of another.

At the Kansas station for three seasons past careful experiments have been made in the artificial pollination of corn. In 1888, forty-one varieties were used; sixty-six attempts at cross fertilization were made, of which thirty-nine were successful. As a practical summary of the results, it is said that the numerous crosses of maize by artificial pollination were mostly successful, the different races, as dent, flint, soft, sweet and pop corn, with apparently equal resistance.

The effects of the crossing are in comparatively few cases (mostly sweet varieties) visible the first year. The second year (the second generation) shows generally ears more or less completely blended, often exactly intermediate between the two parental types; more rarely the grains of a single ear are unlike each other, and each may resemble closely or remotely either parent. The product of the third year is generally true to the seed planted; by selecting diverse grains from any ear or from different years, ears are obtained with grains usually like those planted. Any desired form of a "cross" can therefore apparently be perpetuated.

In view of the above it is possible to effect desired points of improvement in varieties by crossing, and fixing or perfecting by subsequent selection. The experiments the past season were much reduced in value by reason of serious drouth. Favorable seasons will doubtless furnish more favorable or at least more conclusive results in the efforts to improve varieties.

RATIONAL CORN CULTURE.

The necessity for frequent stirring of the soil in a cornfield is paramount for itself alone. If no weed ever appeared there would still be need for frequent cultivation. A few years ago I left ten rows through a cornfield unworked, while the rest of the field was cultivated every week until the tassels appeared. The weeds in those ten rows were pulled by hand, and there were very few, for the ground was a sod deeply plowed, and harrowed thoroughly up to the time the corn was planted. The stalks in the ten rows were more than three feet shorter than those in the rest of the field, and there was scarcely a single ear that was filled out to the end. The rest of the field, which was a few square yards over two acres, yielded one hundred and ninety-eight bushels of shelled corn, estimating two bushels of ears for one of grain. The corn was husked by the bushel and measured twice, so that no mistake was made in the measure. The ten rows made up exactly one-fifth of an acre (thirty-two rods), and gave only eleven and a half bushels of corn. Everything else being equal, the difference, being over forty bushels to the acre, was clearly due to the absence of cultivation, the ground being baked and dry the greater part of the time. Since then I left one strip on the side of a field, measuring exactly an acre, without either cultivation or weeding, and it yielded fourteen bushels of poor corn, the rest of the field yielding forty-two bushels of grain to the acre. In 1889 I had an eight-acre field that yielded enough to completely fill a five-hundred-bushel crib, equal to over thirty bushels of shelled corn per acre, on a very poor old field that was newly broken up, and without manure, but was cultivated eight times, while my half of a reated four-acre field, worked only twice, amounted to one wagon load of ears, equal to twenty bushels of grain, and this small field was much better soil than the old field.

My practice for many years has been to work the corn once a week, beginning on Monday when the weather was suitable, and continue the working as long as a horse can get through the rows without breaking the stalks—and this is usually until the ears begin to hang out in the rows—and the cultivation has always

been on the surface. Some years ago a heavy rain washed a slope on one of my fields very badly, and exposed a fine network of roots for several square rods, which completely filled the soil. Several of the plants were washed loose, and could be taken up with the roots. The roots of many plants were eight feet long, spreading over nearly three rows each way, and they lay very near the surface. In places roots were abundant at a depth of two inches, and very few were as deep down as the land had been plowed. More recent examinations, made purposely, have convinced me that this is the habit of the corn plant to send out its roots near the surface. It may be that surface manuring with fertilizers tends to such a habit of root growth, but soluble fertilizers quickly diffuse themselves through the soil, and it may be that the desire for the sun's heat, which corn so much needs, brings these roots to the surface.

It is clear that a plant having such a superficial root growth should not be plowed, but requires only surface cultivation; for the breaking of the roots must necessarily check the growth of the plants. I had once a plain demonstration of this fact. A field of Evergreen

sweet corn was partly plowed, contrary to my instructions, by a willful hired man, who laughed at my shallow cultivation of the rest of the field. He plowed it deeply and ridged up the rows until I discovered and stopped him. The weather was hot. The corn wilted at once and never grew afterward. Not one ear was gathered from the plowed rows, while the rest of the field averaged over eleven thousand ears per acre, counted for the market. To break the feeding roots of a plant is clearly to stop its feeding, and to turn all the power of growth to repair the damage and make

new roots; at a time, too, when all the strength of the plants is required to form the blossom or the grain. Something has been said of the usefulness of root-pruning corn. It is equivalent to drawing a cow's teeth when she is busy turning good grass into milk and butter, and equally prevents the gathering of nutriment. It is practiced for this special purpose in fruit culture, for checking the growth of trees to reduce the amount of new wood, and it has the same effect upon the corn which we want to hasten to maturity as soon as possible, and to aid in every way in enabling it to gather food and increase its product.

For this reason the cultivation of corn should be early and often, and as late as may be possible, and always on the surface, merely keeping the soil loose and mellow, and absorbent of moisture and the heat of the sun. It helps, too, very much to apply fifty pounds per acre of some active soluble fertilizer immediately after the working of the soil at intervals through the summer, especially when the blossoms, the tassel, and the silk are about to appear, and when the grain is about to form after the impregnation of the silk. These are periods in the life of a plant when extra feeding will greatly assist in the performance of these reproductive functions upon which full ears and sound grain, and early maturity depend.—*American Agriculturist.*

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Every rod of useless fence is a useless tax.

The younger the weed the more easily killed.

Rye makes a good pasture—better than timothy.

Commercial manures are best for potatoes.

Thoroughly clean, air and whitewash your stables.

Manure well if you want a good crop of lawn grass.

Fewer acres and better culture should be the motto.

The value of manure depends on what it is made from.

Have a system of rotation in the garden, as elsewhere.

Begin to cultivate corn as soon as you can follow the rows.

Only the finest manure should be used on the asparagus bed.

Plowing in green crops is the cheapest method of manuring.

The best prepared soil is the most favorable for germination.

Whenever the sheep comes to the barn give them water and food.

Put in a succession of crops of green peas; the same of green corn.

Old strawberry plants seldom produce as large berries as do young ones.

"Sawdust diminishes the efficiency of stable manure"—but only so far as it dilutes it.

The greatest potato yield at the Michigan Station was with seed planted one inch deep.

Farm products that excel in quality and have an attractive appearance never have to hunt a market.

It would do no harm, but likely destroy vermin and microbes, to fumigate your stable with sulphur.

Cabbages ought to be cultivated often and stimulated with fertilizers if the soil is not sufficiently manured.

Many coniferous plants are increased by cuttings on a large scale, especially retinosporas, arbor-vitae, and the like.

Cuttings of plants which root with difficulty are sometimes grafted, with good effect, upon those which root easily.

The rhubarb plant may be increased by divisions. Professor Bailey says that each division must contain at least one bud on the crown.

Produce something out of season, make it attractive and delicious, and see how quick it will sell and how soon there will be a call for more.

The soil for beets should be plowed from twelve to fifteen inches deep, and as much of the beet root grown beneath the surface as possible.

Gluten meal is a very excellent feed. It is the corn meal with the starch taken out of it, and consequently has a better feeding rate than the corn meal itself.

The black walnut is designed to cut an important figure on the farm in the near future. It can be made as profitable as the apple tree wherever it will thrive.

Leaf mold is a natural fertilizer for all trees and shrubs, and wood flowers, or any plants that like a shaded place. It is also very useful as an addition to potting soil.

Freshly laid sod is much more likely to succeed if covered with about an inch of fine soil. This will save it even in a dry time, when otherwise it would fail to get a good start.

It is true, much of the breed goes in at the mouth, but to know the best kind of a mouth to put it in is the real, and necessitates a full knowledge of the head book and score card.

Paris considers milk pure when it contains one pound of butter and four ounces of solids per quart, says an English journal, but such proportions seem irregular to dairymen here.

The advantage of hatching guineas under common hens is, that properly managed, they are usually more gentle than if the guinea hens are allowed to hatch them out and raise them.

FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

The Agricultural Situation a Serious Problem.

Commissioner Nesbitt Calls Attention to "A Defective System" and Proposes Remedies.

The Hon. R. T. Nesbitt, State Commissioner of Agriculture of Georgia, has written a letter to the press in which he says:

"A defective system of agriculture long and ruinously continued has reduced our farming industry to such a condition that many owners of even large tracts of land are seeking employment in other channels. In whatever direction we turn we find dissatisfaction and a feeling of unrest. Our lands are growing poorer each year, labor becoming scarcer and higher, our staple crops less and less remunerative. Agriculture has in all ages had more than its share of the burdens of government, and in many instances has fallen beneath the weight, and yet it has always been the foundation stone upon which every other occupation is built. Our farmers, from their numerical strength, if from no other cause, should have a share in the affairs of State, but from adverse circumstances and unfavorable national laws, this class of our people have been only the burden bearers. Poverty, ignorance and an inability to meet and cope successfully with their more enlightened fellow-men in their occupations, have made them timid and shrinking, and while other have gone rapidly to the front in state and national affairs they have remained in the back ground until driven to desperation by circumstances, often beyond their control; they have been forced into combinations for obtaining relief, of which the grange, the Alliance and other organizations are the outgrowth."

It is only necessary to glance backward with Col. Nesbitt to the old days, and then look at the present, to see that the depression of agriculture is a condition and not a theory. There was a time in the recollection of men now living when our fields were more than self-sustaining—when plenty sat with peace at every fireside, and when the average farmer was thoroughly independent, out of debt and with cash in hand.

We now live under very different conditions. We raise cotton at an actual loss of several cents a pound. We depend upon the West for our grain and meat, despite the fact that we could raise it for about what it costs to freight our supplies here. Worse than all, our farmers are in debt, and getting out very slowly.

Col. Nesbitt thinks that it will take years of scientific, diversified farming to reclaim our worn-out lands, and make them profitable after they have been so long under a mistaken system, and the sooner we begin the better. We must regulate cotton production—plant less of that staple and more food crops. We must reclaim our lands by judicious fertilization and culture. In this work the commissioner thinks that the agricultural departments can render efficient aid if properly backed by the States. It is his idea that the departments should send out experienced and successful farmers to impart their methods to their less fortunate neighbors, and to make experiments in various sections.

"We must not only regulate the production of cotton, but we must reclaim our lands. Too much stress cannot be laid on this all important question."

"With our clean cultured crops we must constantly add fertilizing properties to the soil, thus repairing the waste which is constantly going on."

"Science tells us that our subsoil contains all the properties which once existed in the surface soil, except, perhaps, the humus, and that with proper methods of ditching and terracing to prevent washing, we have only to wait on nature's silent agencies to recover from the injury inflicted by man's injudicious and improvident methods."

"We have spent thousands of dollars to induce immigration, why not apply a small part of that sum to helping those within our own borders? I have suggested that the agricultural departments be allowed to undertake experiments in the four sections of the State of Georgia thus by object lessons, proving that the lands can be reclaimed and opening the way for that intensive system which must come, and which will be the agricultural salvation of the South. Every know-

plan to prevent our lands from leaching or washing should be studied and tried, and the information should be scattered broadcast over our country."

"Let the State instruct her farmers, through these agencies, how to re-clothe these barren fields and hillsides and educate them to more intelligent and profitable methods. We have our teachers' institutes, and even now hundreds of teachers are being instructed in more

progressive and better methods. The farmers have put millions of dollars into school funds. Is it asking too much that a small portion be returned to them to enable them to better understand their surroundings and to grasp the possibilities within their reach? The State should by every reasonable means foster the industry on which her prosperity depends. I am anxious to see the press take up this subject and demonstrate its importance. To the farmers themselves I will speak in my July report as to their part in this great work."

A Reclaimed Desert.

The Russian explorer, Mr. Gram-Grzmailo, who has been traveling in Central Asia, says that the oasis of Turfan, in Tianghan, once the bed of a great lake, is a reclaimed desert. Being without water it is irrigated by the inhabitants, who have excavated a system of underground canals and wells some 300 feet deep. These canals collect the underground water and convey it to the surface in the lower lands. The works are so colossal that the members of the exploring party could only compare them with those of ancient Egypt.—*Picayune.*

Templars' Congress resolved to meet in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1893.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

A CEMENT FOR IRON.

This cement is suitable for stoves which have become cracked and it is desirable to patch up to meet the emergency. Such patching will not last long, but serves for a makeshift at the time. Beat the whites of four eggs to a stiff froth. Stir into them enough powdered quick lime to make a thick paste, and add iron filling dust till a heavy paste is formed. Fill in cracks, and when dry blacken them over carefully. It is best to let the stove remain several weeks before using.—*New York Tribune.*

COOKING POTATOES PROPERLY.

There are many ways of cooking potatoes, and old potatoes need more care in the cooking to make them nice. They should be peeled and laid in clear cold water some time before cooking—changing the water two or three times, or use ice if you have it at hand. "New potatoes" can be made from old ones. Peel the potatoes and cut rather small, into even-sized pieces, put into ice water for an hour or two; twenty minutes before you wish to serve them drain the potatoes from the ice water and throw into boiling salted water, cook quickly, drain off the water and dry the potatoes a moment or two, then put in a deep hot dish, and pour over cream sauce—a pint of sweet cream, seasoned with butter, pepper and salt. It can be thickened if desired, but is more delicate without. Potatoes done in this way are quite equal to "new potatoes," and are usually very well liked in the spring. Another nice way to cook potatoes is to peel them and let them stand some time in ice water, then bake in a hot oven and serve at once. The crisp brown outside is very nice.—*Chicago News.*

ICES.

The fashionable givers of dinners try to outdo one another in their modes of serving ices, calling all their ingenuities to their aid, and at times, developing some marvelous methods of serving ices and creams.

Ices frozen into the shape of wax candles are a novelty, each of these having a little taper at the end, which, just before being served, is lighted, the cream candle being brought on in a china candlestick, with snuffers of candy.

Then there are baskets made of braided sugar candy filled with ices imitating peaches, plums, etc., and flavored like the fruit.

A green meringue can be served filled with rose colored water ice, filled with seeds of chocolate ice, while one of the latest ideas is a big leaf of green ice holding a handful of real strawberries.

At one dinner cream was served in the hearts of real calla lilies, the centers of which were removed before the filling while at another pale, grayish chocolate ice was molded to represent a large flat oyster shell closely shut.—*Detroit Free Press.*

FRUIT JELLIES.

Strawberry Jelly—Select firm, not over-ripe berries, put them in a stone jar and stand in a kettle of cold water; cover the top, and boil slowly until the berries are soft; pour into a jelly bag, and press out all the juice. Measure, and to every pint allow a pound of sugar; put in a preserve kettle and stand over the fire. Boil the jelly twenty minutes; add the sugar, stir until it dissolves; take from the fire, pour in jelly glasses and set to cool; when firm cover and set in a cool dark place.

Cherry Jelly—Pick over ripe Marillo cherries, select the most perfect; put in a preserve kettle and boil until the cherries are tender and will mash; strain through a jelly press, measure the juice, put on to boil for half an hour; add a pound of sugar to every pint of juice; cook until it will jelly; take from the fire, pour in glasses, cover and set aside.

Gooseberry Jelly—Wash a gallon of gooseberries, and put in a kettle with just enough water to cover; boil for ten minutes, wash and press juice through a jelly bag. Return to the kettle; add a pound of sugar to every pint of juice; boil rapidly for fifteen minutes; take from the fire, fill glasses and set to cool.

Raspberry Jelly—Crush the berries; boil, strain and measure; to every pint of juice allow a pound of sugar; cook until it jellies; take from the fire, fill glasses and set to cool.

Currant Jelly—Strain ripe currants; scald; when cold mash and strain, allow a pint of juice and three-quarters of a pound of sugar together. Boil the juice twenty minutes; add the sugar, let dissolve; cook five minutes, take from the fire, pour in glasses, seal and set in a cool, dark place.

Currant Jelly—Pick ripe currants from the stem, and put them in a stone jar; set the jar in a kettle of boiling water and boil until soft. Pour in a flannel jellybag, and let drip without squeezing. Measure, and to every six pints of juice allow four pounds of sugar. Let boil twenty minutes; keep well skimmed. Put in glasses, and set in the sun until firm.

Green Grape Jelly—Stem well grown green grapes, put in a porcelain kettle; cover with cold water, and boil until the grapes are tender; drain through a flannel jellybag, but do not squeeze. To every pint of juice allow one pound of sugar. Put in a porcelain kettle and bring to a boil; stir until the sugar dissolves; skim, and boil until it jellies, take from the fire, fill glasses and set aside until firm, and set in a cool, dark place.—*Mrs. Parler, in Courier-Journal.*

There is a big boom in the lobster fisheries of Nova Scotia, the crustaceans being more plentiful than ever before.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

Malaria is said to be unknown in Zealand.

Wellingtons are boots named after Iron Duke.

The Caspian Sea is often frozen and change its level.

A Deadwood (South Dakota) was shot a bear fourteen times before the spot was reached.

Farmers are traveling by the Mystic, Conn., to get a look at a vine on which a potato vine was grown.

An English head servant gave up that he would leave for being sent from the dining-room during the repast and thus losing the stories.

There are people who have visited tropical countries who say the bananas rarely come to this country small ones, that are the "pride of people."

The youngest litigant on record Richard Jones, of St. Louis, six years old, who is suing a railroad for damages for the death of his father, was killed in a wreck.

At Gordon, Ga., during a storm the other day, a buzzard attempted to soar above the clouds, when he struck by lightning and fell into the ground. The bird's body was burned.

Special cars for invalids will be used on the railroad lines which run between Petersburg, Russia. They will be out with easy berths and surgical instruments that may be required in an accident on the road.

Pocalontas, the earliest, or almost earliest convert to Christianity among native tribes of North America, was buried within the parish church Gravesend, Va., where she could see life. Have any of my girls and boys seen her grave?

In Oldbury, Worcestershire, England a life insurance club has been organized where the officers of president and treasurer were held by an underwriter and that of secretary by his daughter; it is charged it was so managed as to pay a premium on murder.

There is a story of an ocean steamer catching up a piece of whale on the River, and towing it all the way to New York to Liverpool and back, but on discovering to what mysterious use the strange reduction of speed on the round trip could be attributed.

A colt was born on Mr. Wang's place, near Richwood (Ohio) which instead of two eyes, but one was in the center of the forehead. The animal was cut across the face resembling a man's mouth, and but little protruded from its nostrils. Otherwise the animal was well shaped.

Limma, Ohio, boasts the possession of the smallest baby in the State. It is the child of John Vonstein, and is three weeks old. Its weight is not quite two pounds and its body is perfectly formed and can easily be placed in a common cigar box. The babe is a bright and healthy boy, and no increase in his growth has been noticed since his birth.

The tomato is both a fruit and a vegetable. It may be eaten raw, the less cooked. But a better distinction, having fewer exceptions, is that a fruit is sweet, ripe, while a vegetable is not. Perhaps a combination of the two distinctions makes the best definition. A fruit is sweet and may be eaten raw; a vegetable is not sweet and needs to be cooked.

Acres of ground around Sandusky, the Prince of Wales's country seat, are devoted to the cultivation of lilacs of the valley, the sweet scented and ever-popular spring blossom. In the little village near there is little else except a remarkable fine ruin of a little church, and hundreds of thousands of the pure bell-shaped blossoms are sent up to London every year.

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