Southern Farm Notes

Topics of Interest to the Planter, Stockman and Truck Grower

Strawberry Growing.

It is about time the strawberry growers of the South are giving close attention to one point that is often overlooked. We all know how determined many varieties of strawberries are to set plants, if the conditions are favorable to their growth. This is all very well, within reason, but there often comes a time when they are unreasonably well. This we must not allow if we want to get big berries, and those are really the only ones that pay to gather. It is berries that we want, and not plants. Six inches is close enough to let plants set in the matted rows, and these should not be more than twenty inches or two feet wide.

In cultivating, the runners that are long enough to be in the way and be dragged along in line with the rows should not be allowed to root as they are left by the cultivator, but placed where they are really needed, so as to make an even stand over matted row. After this is done so there are enough plants, no more should be allowed to set in that space, if possible to prevent it. Instead of giving the attention to the space between the rows, where no plants are desired, let it alone for almost two months, unless it is likely to get very weedy or grassy, and give the attention to the bearing rows. Use a fork hoe or something that may be easily used to pull loose, dig up or drag between the rows. If they are cut off, others will come, but this may be necessary sometimes. The plants that set in the middle will do no harm and will be destroyed in due time.

When fall weather comes and the runners are about done starting out from the main plants the plows and cultivators should be set to work in the middles and the bearing rows trimmed down to two feet wide, or less. These middles should be kept perfectly clean until growth stops. If a light mulch of hay or something that has little weed seed in it is applied over the plants, they will repay the cost in clean berries when the fruiting season comes.

Dairying in the South.

Dairying in the South progresses slowly, because farmers were not prepared for a revolution in farm methods. Corn and cotton, from the first opening of the country, have been the great staples, and the only rotation was cotton and corn and corn and cotton alternately. There were few farms and fewer cows suitable for dairy farming, and though great improvement has been made, these chief factors are too few now. But dairying must become popular in the South on account of favorable natural advantages. The climate is such that good grazing can be had every month in the year. With Bermuda, our numerous excellent winter grasses, alfalfa, lespedeza, burr clover, crimson clover, winter vetches, sorghum and cow peas, there will be no need for butter color. Besides these silage and hay crops can be grown and utilized at small cost and to any desired extent. Costly barns are not required, for the winters are mild, and for the same reason less food is required, and a less expensive kind of food will be needed. The milder the winters the less grain food is necessary. With the proper division fences and adjustment of crops cows may crop the green herbage summer and winter. Then it is not necessary to send the product a thousand miles to market, for the people of the South are hungry for good butter fresh from the dairy or creamery, and will take all that can be produced for many years to come. Then we have near our back doors the best foreign markets in the world—Mexico and the West Indian Islands. We will be compelled later if we do not voluntarily sooner, go largely into dairying for the preservation of soil fertility, for if we do not our fertilizer bills will equal in amount the total net proceeds of the farms.—Farm and Ranch.

To Make South Cattle Centre.

Plans that were first taken into consideration about a year ago have been developed within the last few months to the point where Swift & Co., and others of the great packing establishments in Chicago have begun experiments on what may prove a revolution of the cattle industry of the country.

The project involves the settlement of several hundred thousand acres of what is at present nearly valueless land in Northern and Northwestern Florida and Southern Alabama, the cultivation on a large scale of the cassava roots and its use in feeding cattle and hogs.

If the plan develops as it is now in the minds of the leading packers, the Southern States will become the centre of the cattle raising industry.

The cassava roots was originally a product of South Africa. Its value as a food product was long ago discovered by the natives, who made from it tapioca. However, it was only recently that the adaptability of the plant to Florida soil was discovered and the great value of it as a food for cattle and hogs was demonstrated. Recently the agricultural colleges in the South took up the study of the root, and declared it to possess wonderful properties as a food for animals and man.

Value of Sorghum Forage.

Sorghum is one of the most valuable forage crops grown in the Southern States. It yields two good, dry forage returns every year and supplies much fall and winter pasturing in addition. Some of the best sorghum growers report harvesting fifty tons of green food per acre. If left to seed an acre produces from twenty-five to thirty-five bushels of fine poultry and hog fattening food in the seed. When mixed with peas or some of the leguminous plants sorghum forms the ideal muscles making and fat producing food. It is the plant for the dairyman, stock raiser and general farmer. In many districts the plant re-seeds annually, thus making a perpetual pasture and forage crop.—Farmers' Home Journal.

Angora Goats as Browsers.

A close observer will notice there are many upland or mountain farms that have some pieces of pasture too dry and perhaps too rocky to yield a profi The past few dry seasons have brough in bushes, briars and weeds that hav robbed the land of tame grass for th making of good quality butter. Suc cheap land pasture is where the An gora goats will thrive best, as they pre fer bushes and briars to grass and wi thrive and grow fat where sheep wi starve and cows cannot live. Angor goats are very prolific, will live abou three times as long as sheep, and thei mohair will bring about three time the price of common wool.—G. H Bloodgood.

Value of a Poultry Pasture.

Too much cannot be said as to th value of a poultry pasture. It is th cheapest feed and the chickens do no want to be fed, but do their own rustling. Every farmer who raise poultry should prepare a piece o ground for a winter rye pasture. B careful and do not have it too far fron the poultry run. Rye is an excellen winter feed, and chickens, ducks an geese thrive upon it. Another great ad vantage in rye is that it balances th grain ration and reduces the amount o high priced corn, wheat and oats tha would be necessary in the absence o the green food.

Pecans From Seedlings.

Pecans grow anywhere that a hick ory nut will grow. The larger, thin shell varieties pay best to grow, be cause they bring better prices. The should not be crowded. From fort to fifty feet apart seems best on goo land. We have known a seedling t bear at three years old, but that was a exception. Others of the same lot bor at five and six years, but usually the do not bear much before eight or te years. Grafted buds bear earlier tha seedlings. For many reasons, we lik seedlings.

Finishing Up the Work.

Work should be done with judgment. No roots should be cut or broken. Harrows, plows or cultivators should be run very shallow—just deep enough to break the crust and destroy grass and weeds. Dust boards should be used on all crops now. Corn will ear heavier if plowed often and shallow. Cotton will fruit better if treated in the same way. We have found it pays us to continue plowing cotton until it begins to open.—Southern Cultivator.

Stock-Growing Possibilities.

Stock growing is certain to become one of the leading industries of the South. The progress that has recently been made in this direction has demonstrated that the Southern farmer is alive to the possibilities that can be achieved in this direction. The abundance of water and grasses, the mild winter season and the short season in which stock have to be fed, make a combination of advantages that cannot be surpassed anywhere in the world.

Not a Land Improver.

We see the advice given frequently to sow turnips (cow-horn turnips) as an improver of land. Do not listen to this. It is a fallacy. We have grown hundreds of acres of turnips but never yet were able to do so without first making the land rich with manure and always finding that the crop had largely exhausted this when harvested. Turnips add nothing to the land but what they take from it, and are therefore not improvers.—Florida Agriculturist.

Sow Rape in Rows.

Rape for a sheep and hog pasture is best grown in rows like turnips and cultivated once or twice, but will make a fine crop sown broadcast. Sow two pounds of seed in rows, or three to four pounds broadcast.

AMERICANS LIKE FROGS.

They Now Eat Twice as Many as the French, So Cafe Proprietor Says.

"The eating of frogs' legs is considered a la Francaise," said an up-town restaurateur, the other day, to one of his guests, "but as a matter of fact more frogs at the present time are killed for the table in this country than in France. I have no means of estimating how great the business of killing frogs for the market has grown in this country, but I am warranted when I say that twice as many are served for the American palate every day as on the tables of the French.

"In France the frogs are raised for the most part in what have been termed froggeries. Here they grow in our creeks and ponds, and are caught by the hook or speared. By the way, did you ever undertake to catch a frog?"

"Never did," answered the guest.

"It is great sport," replied the proprietor of the cafe. "You think that you have got a whale on the end of your line. A fly or a piece of red rag will do for bait, and for that matter the bullfrog will grab at anything red with more avidity than an animate object. He is like his namesake in his inclinations toward this particular color. But when you have him on the hook don't let him drop into the water again, or the chances are that he will get a foothold and it will be impossible to extricate him. I have often hauled in a bullfrog which had in his mouth the broken ends of old hooks and other similar reminders of past attempts on his life.

less dogs. The dog farm is on the side of a fine hill, near the reservoir, and there is plenty of ground for the friendless animals to run around in, as well as comfortable buildings to shelter them when the weather is bad. Admission is easily gained. All any well behaved dog has to do to get in is to run away from home, and wag his tail when the policeman asks him if he has an owner. But such a dog goes in the free portion of the farm. For the dogs whose owners can afford to pay their board there is a large field separated from the free farm by a close wire fence. At night each dog boarder has a compartment all to himself. His meals are more elaborate and better cooked than are those of the charity guests. Every month or so the ladies who are interested in this charity give a dog party. The grounds are illuminated with Chinese lanterns and the visitors are told to be there at feeding time. The society people think it great fun to watch the charity curs fight for bones. At the last party over 500 persons were present.

Safest of All Safe Places.

The fact that a bed in one of our great hospitals is the safest of all safe places for any one who is ill has been driven home among the working classes in London by personal experience. The people who know best, those who have again and again been in the hospitals themselves, are found in an ever-increasing crowd bringing up their sick to be cured, and clamoring for admission.—London Hospital.

Sweden's Death Rate.

Sweden's last census records the lowest death rate yet attained by a civilized nation. During the last ten years it only averaged 16.49 per 1000.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Water Drinking Best Means of Health

By G. T. Palmer, M. D.

THE human body contains a complete sewerage system in which poisonous and disease-producing refuse is constantly gathering, and jeopardizing the health, says Invention. The same rule which applies to municipal sanitation will also apply to personal sanitation, and the danger of disease may be forestalled by flushing out this sewerage system with an excess of water. Just as truly as the gathering of filth from the city in the "sewerage veins" endangers the lives of the inhabitants, so the poisons generated by the bodily metabolism, collected in the excretory organs, will jeopardize the lives of the millions of inhabitants of the body—the living cells. Every action of muscle or of nerve is accompanied by the destruction of cells, which, if not eliminated, will accumulate, like clinkers.

Aside from the mere "choking of the flues," we must bear in mind that the body is constantly generating poisons, which, if eliminated freely, will do no harm; but which, if retained, will be productive of disease. Such a poison is uric acid, which is charged justly with causing rheumatism, gout, constant headaches, dizziness, and a train of other symptoms, and it must be seen that if the accumulation of refuse is the cause of such conditions, the logical means of cure is its elimination. Other "products of metabolism" create their own types of disease, and all may be prevented by the free use of water.

A beginning of kidney trouble lies in the fact that people, especially women, do not drink enough water. They pour down tumblers of ice water as an accompaniment to a meal; but that is worse than no water, the chill preventing digestion, and indigestion being a direct promoter of kidney disease. A tumbler of water sipped in the morning immediately on rising, another at night, are recommended by physicians. Try to drink as little water as possible with meals, but take a glassful half an hour to an hour before eating. This rule persisted in day after day, month after month, the complexion will improve and the general health likewise. Water drunk with meals should be sipped, as well as taken sparingly.

Why Boiling a Potato is an Art

By Alice Dynes Fealing, B. S.

WE often hear the remark that some would-be cook "cannot boil potatoes." The truth is, few cooks prepare this dish properly. The girl who understands science knows that the potato does not boil. The water boils and the heat conveyed by this medium cooks the starch and softens the cellulose of the potato. Physics has taught her that, under ordinary pressure, water never becomes any warmer after the boiling point (212 degrees Fahrenheit, 100 degrees Centigrade) is reached; therefore she allows the water to remain at boiling temperature until the heat has penetrated and cooked the vegetable. She then removes the water at once and has a mealy, flaky potato. True, without her knowledge of science, she might obtain the same result accidentally. But she is quite as likely to continue the cooking until the starch is partly dextrinized and a gummy, sticky potato is the result. The unscientific cook is quite likely to endeavor to hasten the cooking process by adding fuel to the fire, thus causing violent boiling, believing that she is thus attaining her object. She may cause the vegetable to break by the mechanical action of the water, or the liquid may splash over on the stove or pass off in steam, but in no case is the cooking accomplished in less time. Thus a knowledge of the simple laws of physics prevents a waste of fuel, a point in economy well worth consideration.

The Praise of Science.

By Garrett P. Serviss

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN is mentioned in any history of modern times; Daniel Webster in any history of America.

Thus writes Dr. Edward Everett Hale, in praising some of the great men of our country.

Consciously or not, he has put into one pregnant sentence the praise of science.

For, if you ask yourself: "Why does Franklin's name appear in histories which omit the name of Webster?" your only reply can be: "Because Franklin's scientific investigations and discoveries have made his name a household word in every civilized land, while Webster's political services, great as they were, affected narrower interests and stirred the minds of fewer people the world over."

And this is by no means a solitary instance; on the contrary, it may be called an expression of a general law. All through human history it has been so, and not only in modern times. But a very few of the foremost poets and great conquerers have won places as lofty in the temple of fame as those occupied by the leaders in scientific thought and achievement.

Alexander's name is not more widely celebrated than that of his master, Aristotle. Homer has not lived longer on men's tongues than Euclid.

Columbus in some respects stands alone, although science may with more reason claim him than any other branch of human effort.

Is Shakespeare, with his universal popularity, after all more widely known or respected than Newton? Would not more histories leave out the name of Luther than that of Copernicus?

Does not Galileo's fame tower as high as that of his countryman, Michael Angelo? If no account of the career of mankind could ignore Napoleon and his victories, as little could it omit Laplace and his mathematics.

Put yourself in the place of an intelligent reader 500 years hence looking back upon the nineteenth century. Would he behold any figure among men towering higher than that of Darwin?

The presidents and kings, and politicians and fighters, and spinners of literary gossamer, and blowers of metaphysical bubbles, and hoarders of gold and banknotes will then present almost a dead level, a little tumbled perhaps with the excrescences of vanity, above which Darwin's fame will rise like a pyramid.

Especially let the young man, stirred by an honorable ambition to make the best use of this world's time and opportunities, remember that as the ages roll by the poorest figure of all is cut by the mere money-bags, the "king" of this, that or the other form of "industry" and greed. Into the heaven of lasting fame and honor it is indeed harder for the rich man to enter "than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle."

The hope of humanity on this earth is based upon the advance of science. The human mind instinctively recognizes that fact, and this is the reason why the name of Benjamin Franklin is familiar in lands where that of George Washington is seldom heard and that of Daniel Webster is forgotten.—American and Journal.

To Hang a Scythe.

During one of their college vacations Daniel Webster and his brother returned to their father's farm. Thinking he had a right to some return for the money he had expended on their education, the father gave them scythes and requested them to mow. Daniel made a few sweeps and then stopped to wipe his brow and rest:

"What's the matter, Dan?" asked his father.

"My scythe don't hang right, sir."

His father fixed it and Dan went to work again, but with no better success. Something was wrong with the implement, and it was not long before it needed fixing again, when his father said impatiently:

"Well, hang it to suit yourself."

Daniel, with great composure, hung it on a near tree, and retired from the field.—Philadelphia Times.

Thick as Leaves.

In Liverpool, which is the densest and unhealthiest district in England, the population is 63,823 to the square mile.

All the heroes are not married, but all the married men are heroes.