

Horticultural Hints

GOOD BORDEAUX SUBSTITUTE

Encouraging Experiments Have Been Made With Pickering Sprays—Quite Efficient.

Efforts to obtain a copper fungicidal spray for fruits and vegetables that would be as efficient as but less expensive than standard bordeaux mixtures, have led to encouraging experiments with the Pickering bordeaux sprays, the results of which are contained in a bulletin now issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. The high price of copper sulphate, known as bluestone or blue vitriol, during the war caused chemists of the department to turn their attention to the Pickering bordeaux sprays which contain less of this high-priced chemical.

The so-called Pickering bordeaux sprays had been tested to a limited extent in England, where laboratory tests indicated that they were more efficient per unit of copper than the bordeaux sprays. Pickering sprays, sometimes called Pickering limewater sprays, are prepared by mixing saturated limewater with dilute solutions of copper sulphate, and contain their copper in the form of basic copper sulphates. If the results obtained by Pickering, the British chemist from whom the sprays get their name, in the laboratory in England hold true under field conditions in America, it is obvious that a great saving in copper in this country may be effected.

It is believed that the experiments by the department lay a basis for further studies to be conducted in various parts of the country. The opinion is expressed that from the information provided in the bulletin the various agricultural experiment stations and other agencies in the country will be able to devise formulas for copper fungicidal sprays for certain crops made with less copper sulphate than standard bordeaux, which will prove just as efficient as the more expensive spray. It would be impracticable, it is pointed out, for the department to devise these formulas itself. Field conditions vary in different sections of the country, and experiments would have to be conducted in these different sections in order to work out a spray suitable to local needs.

No injurious effects followed the application of Pickering bordeaux sprays to potatoes in Maine or to cranberries in New Jersey. The sprays, however, proved to be too caustic for use on apples in Virginia or on grapes in New Jersey and Virginia. Pickering bordeaux sprays, it is said, cannot be used on tender foliage.

Barium water sprays of the Pickering type, made with barium instead of lime and containing the equivalent of .7 per cent of copper sulphate, proved very successful against the late blight of potatoes in Maine. Such a spray containing the equivalent of .8 per cent of copper sulphate was tested one season in Virginia and did not injure the foliage or fruit of the apple trees.

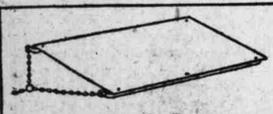
Department Bulletin 866, "Pickering Sprays," a report of the results of the experiments, may be had upon request, of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

BURN ALL ORCHARD PRUNINGS

Sheet-Iron Sled, Shown in Illustration, Has Been Successfully Used in California.

The sheet-iron sled, illustrated, has been used with great success for burning prunings in a large peach orchard and vineyard near Porterville, Cal.

It is drawn between the rows by a single horse. Such a device may be constructed by any rancher and is sure to be a time and labor saver. The brush may be placed quickly on the sled and set afire, while the flames are so close to the ground that no injury to the trees results. The coals often last through the night and are ready



Sheet-Iron Sled Used in Burning Orchard Rubbish.

to ignite more brush the following morning.

The dimensions are 5 by 8 feet. The runners are only about 2 inches high.—George C. Crowe, Tulare, Cal., in *Orchards and Farm*.

TO SET CURRANT CUTTINGS

If Very Severe Weather Prevails Bury in Sand in Cellar—Plant in Good Warm Soil.

To propagate currants take hardwood cuttings in the spring, or, better, in early fall. Early fall cuttings should be bunched and buried, butts up, until spring. If very severe weather conditions prevail, bury in sand and in the cellar. Plant in the spring in good warm soil. They may be planted in nursery rows for a couple of years, and then are commercial-sized plants ready for the currant patch. Or, you can layer the tips of the currant branches in the growing season, lifting the new plants to set in the new plantation.

Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

MARY GRAHAM BONNER
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ANNIE ALLIGATOR.

"My head is flat," said Annie Alligator, "and the head of the crocodile is three-pointed and rather thick.

"It may not be considered nice to have a flat head and I suppose if one were a person one wouldn't like it, but when one isn't a person and when one is an alligator it is quite all right to have a flat head.

"In fact I wouldn't know what to do with any other sort of head.

"In the southern waters where we live we lie on the banks and hatch our eggs there though they can look after themselves pretty much.

"We sleep and lie about and rest in the pools and swamps and we love to eat.

"We're not pigs and yet there is something about us that is like pigs.

"Pigs are greedy.

"That is a fact known to history and story books and truth and everything else.

"Pigs don't look like us. They haven't flat heads. They don't look like crocodiles with triangular or three-cornered sorts of heads, either!

"They aren't in the least like us in any of those ways that I have mentioned or in many other ways which I have not mentioned.

"They do like the mud and so do we, but we're happy to lie on it and we don't care about digging in it as they do, and they live in a pen which isn't our idea of a home. A pool and a few surrounding banks are what we care about.

"But there is one thing about pigs that is true of us, too, as I started to tell you, and as I'll finish telling you before I go very much further.

"I don't mean when I say that I'm going further that I'm going to crawl further along. I mean merely that I'm going to say more and get further along in my story. And before I finish my story or my talk or whatever you wish to call it, I am going to tell you what there is about pigs and ourselves which is alike.

"In fact I am going to tell it to you before I say very much more or before I get much further along in my story and I think I will tell it to you at once.

"Pigs love their food. They are greedy, as I said. And we, too, are greedy.

"They don't care about anything but their food. They would eat anything that is good to eat.

"And when people eat in order to live and animals have to do the same—if not all peo-



Lie About and Rest.

ple and all animals—still they don't all live for the joy of eating."

"They eat because for their health they must eat and, too, because they like food.

"But pigs care for nothing in the world so much as they do for their eating, and alligators care for food more than anything.

"We don't bother noticing anyone unless we're hungry and unless we think there may be a chance that they may have food to give us.

"That is all we do—look for food—unless we happen to be sleeping or something equally important.

"But they say that our appetites are the most important things about us, and that if anyone asked us we should say so.

"I am quite willing to admit it. I think it is fine to think that Annie Alligator and her family and the other Alligator families have fine appetites.

"And when some may talk of work and play, of hopes and fears, of pleasures and annoyances, we can truthfully say that we don't bother about all those things.

"Just give us good meals and we're contented—quite, quite contented.

"Annie Alligator says so, the keeper says so, the other alligators say so and it is true.

"So when you think of alligators think of our noble, fine, healthy, beautiful appetites, and if you wouldn't be apt to call our appetites by all those names just think of our appetites. They're big enough to deserve a lot of thoughts. That is what we think about them."

Located.

First Undergraduate—Have you telegraphed for money?

Second Undergraduate—Yes; I telegraphed yesterday.

First Undergraduate—Got any answer?

Second Undergraduate—Yes. I telegraphed the governor: "Where is that money I wrote for?" And his answer reads: "In my pocket."—American Boy.

NICE FROCKS THAT GRACE THE DANCE



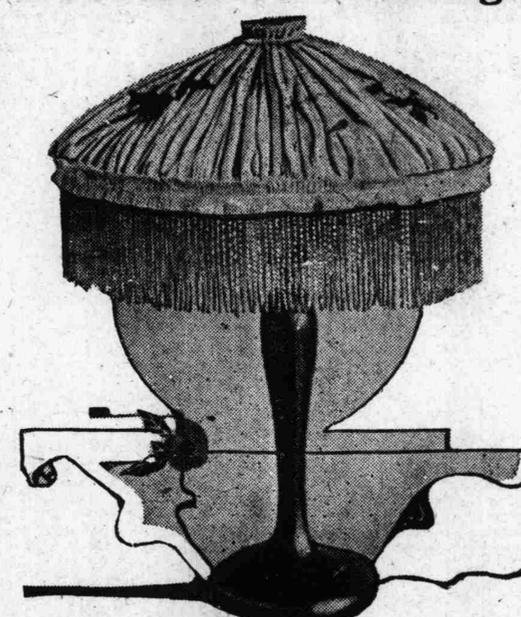
WHAT seamstress does not enjoy making up the lovely dance and dinner frocks that give her imagination food for pleasant thought? Whether she is working for herself or some one else, and especially if her endeavor benefits a daughter, there is less care and more joy in the making of party frocks than in anything else. Younger women are rapturous over them, the young matrons know that they look their best in them and maturer ones travel on the road to yesterday when they wear them.

There is a wide choice of styles to suit various tastes, and plenty of room for individual taste in dance frocks. One may choose quaint and demure ideas or be a little daring, or steer a course between the two. When there is so much that is vivid and sparkling and daring, it is the simpler or quaint frocks that find themselves most charming. They do not belong to the jazz era, and are refreshing for that reason.

A lovely dance or dinner frock of taffeta, as pictured here, has a low bodice with narrow straps of the silk over the shoulders, and over this a pretty fichu of fine net to match, edged with shirred taffeta strips frayed along the edges. The girdle, which is pointed at the front, recalls the old-time pointed bodice that seems to belong to the full skirt. The fichu is knotted at the front and has short ends hanging below the waistline.

The skirt is widened at the hips with a wire, and there are three rows of the fringed strips set about it here to emphasize its fullness. The bodice and skirt, like the taffeta, are made of a material longer than skirts have been made of in time. There are several signs besides this one of a reaction from extremes in styles that may be looked for in the coming spring.

Decorative Furnishings



WOMEN have always been willing to lavish time on decorative furnishings for their homes—those loving touches of ornament—sometimes crude and sometimes exquisite—that show where their interest is centered and their hearts rooted. The time and work spent are worth while, but in these busy modern days they cannot give long hours to fancy work. We are indebted, therefore, to the people who bring out easily made and inexpensive things that put a new countenance on familiar rooms and make them cheerful and livable. No one does more in this direction than the manufacturers of fine tissue and crepe papers, and they are not alone in their efforts. They make a long list of things and have brought their productions up to standards that rival much more costly articles.

Among the paper furnishings lamp and candle stands, vases and baskets compel more attention than anything else, for every woman is interested in them. Shades for the lamps or candles and flowers for the vases follow, the latter now often bought at the mill-

liners. There is a widening appreciation of winter bouquets, made of the berries, seed pods, straw flowers and grasses that nature herself provides. Many flowerlike ornaments are made of pine cones, cut and painted and touched up with gilding, that are new and lovely. Many artificial flowers, with zinnias, asters and nasturtiums the favorites, are dipped in clear shellac which is allowed to drain off while it dries on them and leaves them with a surface like glass or porcelain.

Lamp stands are made of paper rope and the shades of crepe paper. A shade that has so much the appearance of silk that it deceives the eye is shown in the picture. It is made over a wire frame, just as a silk shade would be, with rose-colored paper underneath and light-blue over it. The bead fringe is in rose-color, the paper a very fine crepe and in beautiful tones of color.

Julia Bottomley

BOY SCOUTS

(Conducted by National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.)

REGISTER AS VETERAN SCOUT

A vigorous, concerted effort is being made by the national headquarters and the various local councils of the Boy Scouts of America to encourage all men and boys, who are eligible, to register as veteran scouts and thus become recognized life members of the Veteran Scout association. The slogan "Register the Veteran" has been adopted and will be used nationally for the next few months as a means of bringing about this much desired result.

Every first class scout official who has been in the movement a total of five years is eligible. The service need not have been continuous. This applies to scoutmasters and their assistants, troop committeemen, members of local councils, commissioners, deputy commissioners, and all other officials. And it is announced officially that service of scouts during the late war, in the army, navy, marine corps or any of the recognized war service organizations will receive credit toward securing the veteran scout rank.

It is stated that between 40,000 and 50,000 men and boys now active in the movement are eligible to this rank, which in many respects is the most honorable of all, for it is figured that if one lives up to the scout oath and law for five years, he will be guided the rest of his life by these high ideals and embody the theory of "once a scout always a scout." Besides those who are now active in scouting, there are many thousands of the million or more former members who are eligible, but perhaps do not know that they are. Local councils everywhere are asked to look them up and secure their registration.

If a boy scout joined the Boy Scouts of America when he was twelve, which is the minimum age, he may at the age of seventeen register and become a veteran scout provided he has then reached the rank of first class scout and has been during the five years a member or associate member of a scout troop. Membership in the veteran organization carries with it the beautiful V badge signifying five years' service, which at the end of ten years' service may be replaced with an X badge. And, of course, the veteran having life membership, is entitled at all times, whether he is active or not, to wear the scout uniform of his highest rank. Men and boys everywhere who have been scouting five or more years are urged to apply at once to the local or the national headquarters in New York for registration blanks.

BURBANK ON GOOD SCOUTS.

Luther Burbank probably knows as much about boy culture as he does about plant life and its improvement by scientific means. Following is his idea of the birthright of every American boy who is to be reared under the best conditions:

"Every child should have mud pies, grasshoppers, water bugs, tadpoles, frogs, mud turtles, elderberries, wild strawberries, acorns, chestnuts, trees to climb, brooks to wade in, water lilies, woodchucks, bats, bees, butterflies, various animals to pet, hayfields, pine cones, rocks to roll, sand, snakes, huckleberries and hornets; and any child who has been deprived of these has been deprived of the best part of his education."

In commenting on this the Saturday Evening Post declared that "the largest single agency in the world that uses these raw materials as part of its regular stock in trade is the Boy Scouts of America. Persons who have not closely watched the growth of this lusty young giant can scarcely be aware of the stature it has attained or of the tremendous power for good in American life that it has become."

WORLD SCOUTS AT WORSHIP.

Doubtless the most impressive religious ceremony with a congregation of youth was that held in London on the first Sunday after the gathering of representative boy scouts of the world for their recent "jamboree." There were assembled in the vast arena of the Olympia approximately 10,000 boy scouts from all parts of the globe, scouts of all colors, all creeds, and of 34 nationalities, and all in the uniforms they honor. More than 5,000 adults participated, completely filling the great building. The impressive scout law was in evidence, emphasizing that the crowning glory of scouting is reverence. Other services for scouts were held in Westminster abbey, in St. Paul's cathedral and the Westminster Catholic cathedral.

GOOD TURNS FOR BOY SCOUTS.

The boy's department of the Y. M. C. A. in Cincinnati recently gave for the boy scouts of that city the greatest treasure hunt of their lives. About 500 boys raced over ten routes, at the end of each having been hidden a treasure for them to find. Upon their return to Y. M. C. A. headquarters there were other hidden treasures in that vicinity for them to find before the time for entertainment and refreshments.

Live Stock News

SELECTING BEST BEEF CALF

Animal Must Have Proper Conformation, Breed Type and Good General Appearance.

If the beef calf selected for raising is to develop into a useful, profitable individual for breeding purposes, it must be a good calf as well as the descendant of good ancestors. Keep in mind that you are either selecting a calf for a herd bull or for a foundation breeding cow. To be classed as a good calf it must have the proper form, which is sometimes spoken of as "type" or "conformation." If you expect to select a calf with these necessary requirements, you should become familiar with them. Study pictures of famous animals; note their form. A score card of the breed you are most interested in would be useful. Learn the different parts of a beef animal and the method of examination in judging them.

In selecting the calf, first get an idea of its general appearance. This you may do by looking at it from a distance of from 10 to 15 feet, observing its weight or growth according to age, conformation, quality, condition, body, breed type, and general disposition. Observe it closely, beginning at the head and neck, then forequarters, body, and hindquarters, in order named. If a bull is selected, it should not have the appearance of a heifer or a steer, but the strong, vigorous, masculine appearance of a bull in every detail. If a heifer is selected, she should have the feminine appearance of a good breeding cow rather than the possible coarseness or roughness of a steer.

Thus observing the calf without putting your hands on it, select one that is stylish and active. When viewed from the front it should have a short face, large muzzle, wide forehead, short neck, and a wide, deep chest, indicating a strong, vigorous constitution. When looked at from the side its back should be straight and level from shoulders to the tail. It should have a deep body and smooth, long



Calf of Desirable Type—Note the Beef Conformation and Excellent Breed Characteristics Shown in This Heifer.

hindquarters. When viewed from the rear it should present a wide, deep appearance. While as much width as possible is desired, it should not be accompanied with roughness about the shoulders and the hips or hocks. The legs should be rather short, stout, and set wide apart. A calf that stands high from the ground, cut up in the flank, and shallow in the heart girth, has little chance of developing into a useful or profitable breeding animal.

After you have found a calf with good general appearance, have someone hold it so that you can put your hands on it. This is the best way to determine what are called "condition" and "quality." Condition means the amount of flesh and fat the calf has. Select a calf in good growing condition, but not excessively fat. The beef calf for breeding purposes should have great depth of natural flesh and be free from roughness or coarseness in any way. By running the open hand along the back and sides with a slight pressure of the finger tips the amount and quality of condition may be determined. A calf in proper growing condition, while not possessing the depth of flesh of a mature animal, should have a smooth, even covering of firm though not hard flesh along its back and sides and over the shoulders.

Quality may be determined by the eye of the experienced judge, but the hand may also be used to advantage. All the following indicate quality: A thick coat of hair that feels soft and silky and looks glossy; a loose, pliable skin that does not seem thick, rough, or tightly stretched over the body; and rather short legs that appear to have strong, clean bones without roughness or coarseness.

A calf showing early maturity, as indicated by the tendency to put on an even covering of rather firm flesh, is desirable.

Color is of little importance as long as the calf selected has the approved color of the breed desired. There are, however, popular shades and color markings of the different breeds, which you will learn from further study of the breed selected.

COMMON SHEEP SCAB CAUSES

Illment May Be Differentiated From Conditions Caused by Pesticiferous Ticks or Lice.

Common sheep scab may be differentiated from conditions caused by other parasites, such as sheep ticks, common ticks and lice by finding the parasites and by the nature of the lesion. If the itching is caused by ticks an examination will reveal the ticks.