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AGRICULTURAL.

From the Western Farmer. ON TRANSPLANTING.

There is no operation more important to the agriculturist than that of planting out fruit trees; because, if properly performed the benefits of the operation are for himself and for his prosperity. Hence the damage of introducing improper practices founded upon unsounded principles, in planting.

Having observed in your November number of the Western Farmer, some 'Notes on Transplanting,' copied from the New York Farmer, recommending the planting out of trees without topping off any part of the top or branches—and apprehending that the reasoning in favor of that practice is incorrect, and might mislead, to their injury, the confiding and inexperienced, I beg leave to offer a few observations on the subject.

The author of those 'Notes,' it appears to me, reasons badly, when he draws an argument in favor of his new theory, from the fact of the greater success in planting a young tree 'with its limbs and roots entire,' than 'the larger one with the system of decapitation practised upon it.' He infers that the difference arises from the amputation of the branches—whereas it proceeds from the greater loss of the roots, in digging up the larger, than the young tree. In removing a young plant, it is quite practicable to retain a much larger proportion of the extremities of the small fibrous roots, adapted to the intrusion of the plant, than of a large tree. There can be no doubt that the roots are more essentially the life sustaining members of plants than the branches—therefore, when a tree (small or great) is removed, the chance of its living depends more upon retaining a due proportion of its most essential members.

The soundness of theories may sometimes be tested by pushing the principles on which they rest to their extremes. Let us see whether the theory here controverted can stand this test—Plant a young tree with its branches and roots entire. It will live—cut off a branch, it will live—cut off several, it will still live—nay, cut off the whole, leaving only the stem, and it will not only survive, as a thousand instances have proved but being sustained by the roots, it will put out new branches and will flourish.

Plant another tree with its branches and roots entire—try the same process of amputation on the roots, and ere you reach the last root, the branches will wither, and the tree will decline and die.

An argument in favor of the new theory is attempted to be founded on a supposed analogy between vegetable and animal life. 'But (says its author,) would any person in his senses think of cutting off a child's arm because it had the misfortune to lose its foot?' Certainly the author of the Notes, in this question, loses sight entirely of the supposed analogy. The food of an animal is not constituted an organ to receive through its pores nourishment for the sustenance of the body, as the roots are of a tree. The stomach of an animal is this organ. Now, let us suppose the stomach to be wounded or impaired, so as not to be able to perform adequately the functions of receiving, preparing, and furnishing the body a due portion of food. What is the consequence? Why, by an invariable law of nature, the bulk of substance to be supported, must be reduced, the body and limbs fall away and dwindle, sometimes almost to a skeleton. But when the stomach recovers its tone, and performs properly its functions, then the body and limbs begin to recover, and finally assume their wonted size and fullness. So when the roots of a tree have been reduced or impaired, to a degree which leaves them incapable of supplying adequate nourishment for the whole tree, body and limbs, the same law of nature ordains, that a portion of the substance to be supported, must be reduced—the limbs wither, dry, and decay,—and who ever yet saw a dry, dead twig restored so as to vegetate?

As then, in the cases supposed, art is incapable of reducing the bulk of the animal, but nature is competent both to reduce and restore—as art is capable of reducing the bulk of the tree, leaving only as much as can be supported by the appendant root—and as reduced of the bulk to be supported, is indicated in both cases when the sustaining organs are impaired, it would seem that the analogy is clearly in favor of trimming off a portion of the limbs, so as to leave the top of the tree proportioned to the remaining root,

But further—is not this new theory entirely at war with the system of pruning? done for the double purpose of preserving the tree, and improving the fruit, a system which has stood the test of ages, and has the sanction of experience—the best guide to young agriculturists.

But facts are the best arguments in these matters; about thirty years ago, I transplanted a pear tree into my garden. It was seven inches through, dug up in December, in freezing weather. To save it I trimmed off most of the top, so much as to admit of its being carried into a cellar, to preserve it for the night from the frost. Next day it was carried a mile and planted. It is yet a good bearing tree. About ten years past I transplanted a bearing Jonneting apple tree, more than half grown, cutting off most of the top. This year it bore the best, and largest apples of any Jonneting tree in my orchard.

Some four or five weeks past, a neighbor of mine transplanted from the forest to his yard a very uncommon and beautiful tree, bearing berries—desirous of saving the top, he trimmed off none, and the tree died.

Such facts could be advanced without number.

From the Genesee Farmer.

DRY FEET FOR FARMERS:

There are few articles which have at once come into such general use, or which have been found applicable to so great a variety of practical purposes, as the common India Rubber or gum elastic of the shops. This substance is the production of a small tree, a species of myrtle, growing in abundance in the tropical regions of Africa, Asia and America; and is already becoming quite an article of traffic in those countries. It is produced by making incision into the trees, from which a milk-like fluid flows, and is caught in vessels provided for that purpose. When partially dried it is spread thinly over a ball of clay, and as the gum hardens successive layers are added until the desired thickness is obtained. The clay is now reduced to powder by beating, and the gum remains in the shape of a pear-necked bottle in which form it is most frequently imported. The gum is, however, now frequently found in other shapes—and its appearance is owing its exposure to the smoke in drying. There has hitherto been considerable difficulty in dissolving it; most of the common solvents used for the other gums producing little or no effect upon it. Purified naphtha or what in this country is usually termed Seneca oil, has been most frequently and successfully used for the purpose. One of the most valuable uses to which India rubber has been applied, is the rendering of leather, or boots and shoes, impervious to water, and thus rendering that important requisite to health—dry feet. Various kinds of rubber, paste and blacking have within a few years been offered to the public, all good no doubt, but still, at such prices that common farmers, who surely need a preservative of this kind against the effect of almost continued exposure, were not to any considerable extent, able to avail themselves of the benefit.

My object in this paper is to state for the benefit of my brother farmers, and those who have suffered as I have done, the consequences of wet feet, the manner in which I prepare this substance for my own use, and which I find to answer every desirable purpose. I take common tallow, say one pound and melt it in a small iron kettle holding about two quarts—the ordinary skilnet would answer the same end. I have ready for use, cut into as fine strips or pieces as may be convenient, from four to six ounces of rubber, and when the tallow begins to get pretty hot, I put in the gum and gradually increase the heat, until by stirring I find it has completely dissolved, and incorporated with the tallow.—While the process is going on it will foam violently, and large volumes of pungent smoke will be thrown off, but I have never known it to take fire or other danger or inconvenience result from the preparation. When thus prepared it is applied with a brush in the same manner as tallow to boots and shoes, and with the same effect. A small quantity of lamp black combined with the mass when melted, will furnish blacking to the leather, and if any choose they can add the usual ingredients for making a paste for polishing. Farmers however are generally content, if they can keep their boots and shoes simply blacked and water proof, and this the

proper application of the above cheap and easy preparation, will ensure. That it cannot be injurious to the leather, when used in this way, the nature of the substance and experience would both determine. For India Rubber I have always used old overshoes of which a supply can in general be readily obtained, always rejecting the most worn, burned or other defective parts. The spring of the year is the time of the year farmers are most exposed, and I am confident the use of this preparation will prevent many a rheumatic twinge, if it should ward off nothing worse from him who is compelled to be out all seasons.

CAUSES OF DISEASE.

The cause of most of our diseases, or at least of that numerous class which it is in our power entirely to prevent may be enumerated thus:

1. *Insufficient Exercise.*—He who does not spend several hours every day in some active exercise—as walking, riding on horse back, or in some amusement which calls nearly all the muscles into play, must inevitably suffer from a diminution of bodily strength, defect of appetite, and imperfect digestion, and becomes sooner or later the subject of disease.

2. *Late Rising and late Retiring.*—There are few things which contribute more to shorten life, than the habit of keeping late hours, and consequently of rising from bed late in the morning. The advances of weakness and disease from this cause are, it is true, by very gradual steps, but not the less certain to be ultimately felt.

3. *Breathing Impure Air.*—A constant supply of fresh air is even more important than food or drink. Any individual may for a long time control the sensation of hunger, or even the more imperious one of thirst; but life will most certainly be destroyed if pure air be withdrawn from the lungs for a very short period. The air is rendered impure by being loaded with animal and vegetable exhalations, by its free circulation being prevented by a number of persons breathing it when confined in a close chamber, and by the process of fermentation and combustion.

4. *Insufficient Ablutions of the body.*—It is not enough for the preservation of health, that merely the hands, the feet, and the face be washed frequently, but that the whole surface of the body be repeatedly purified by immersion in a bath of appropriate temperature.

To all, the frequent use of the bath is an important means of preserving health, but none more so, than to the laborer and mechanic: to such the time and means for bathing should be afforded in every city, and every extensive manufactory, wherever situated.

5. *Inattentiveness to the Cleanliness of Clothing and Dwellings.*—Independence of the injury which the health of individuals suffers from a neglect of strict personal and domestic cleanliness, the contamination of the air from the decomposition of filth accumulated in and about a dwelling, has not infrequently communicated disease to whole families and neighbors. Repeatedly washing the walls of a house, and scrubbing the floors, is not merely, therefore, a source of tasteful comfort, but a direct means of preserving health.

6. *Food rendered pernicious by modern Cookery.*—*Abuse of Appetite.*—While a moderate quantity of plain wholesome food—in other words the food in ordinary use, is essential to the maintenance of life—all excess in its use, all complicated processes of cookery; and every artificial means, whether by high seasoning, variety of dishes, or foreign savors, of keeping up the appetite beyond the wants of the system, are decidedly injurious. Every species of adulteration, also, to which our food or drink is subjected, from whatever motive, detracts from its wholesomeness. Let it be recollected, too, that the health and strength of the body are not supported by the quantity of food consumed, but only by as much as is capable of being converted, by the powers of the stomach, into pure chyle and blood.

7. *The use of Intoxicating Drinks in any quantity.*—The only wholesome drink—the only one adapted to the wants of the system, is pure water. Every drop of alcohol which is taken into the stomach, whether in the form of ardent spirits or fermented liquors, produces injury and when its use is habitually indulged in, even though absolute drunkenness be not occasioned, the powers of life are gradually undermined, and the system

lain open to the attacks of serious and even fatal diseases.

8. *Defective and Improper Clothing.*—Injury in health may be caused either by the clothes being inadequate to defend the wearer from the cold, or sudden changes of the weather, by their impeding the free motions of the limbs or by their compressing or binding too firmly some part of the body.

9. *The Influence of Cold.*—In the more opulent ranks of society, disease is produced occasionally by the unequal and imperfect diffusion of warmth throughout an apartment—by exposure to the night air or inclement weather, after being heated in crowded apartments, or by exercise, as dancing, &c. In the poorer and improvident classes, cold, during the winter, is a continued and fruitful source of suffering and disease.

10. *Intense and protracted applications of the Mind.*—Alternate rest and activity as well of mind as of the body are essential to the support of health. Long continued mental application, whether in study or the cares of business, wears out the system, and exhausts the powers of life even more rapidly than protracted manual labor.

11. *Giving way to Passions.*—Experience fully proves that no more contributes more effectually to guard the system from disease, and to prolong life, than a calm and contented state of mind. Individuals who on every occasion give way to the influence of passion, not only injure materially their health but are often promptly destroyed. Violent anger and ambition, jealousy and fear, have produced the speedy death of thousands. In cultivating an amiable, peaceful and virtuous disposition, therefore, a man not only insures his happiness but promotes his health also.

12. *The unnecessary or imprudent use of Medicine.*—Domestic quackery has ruined many constitutions. A dose of medicine taken with the view of preventing an attack of disease, not unfrequently invites one which otherwise would not have occurred. The absurd practice of loosening blood, or taking purgatives and other remedies in the Spring and Autumn, under the erroneous idea that by so doing the blood is rendered more pure, should be carefully avoided.

NEWSPAPERS AND THE NEWSPAPER PRESS.

The newspaper press in this country is such a mighty instrument, and has such an overpowering influence on our morals, our politics and our national character, that it is devoutly wished it may ever be wielded by men of pure hearts and sterling patriotism, and extensively cultivated minds—minds exalted above sordid interest, personal animosities, or geographical predilections. Its power has been, and will continue to be, productive of vast results—of good or ill to the present as well as to future ages.

It is not saying too much to declare that the newspaper press is one of the most remarkable phenomena of modern times—vitaly affecting society in all its relations, and forming one of the political elements of modern free institutions which the ancients had not even in embryo. As a medium of communicating intelligence on subjects of general interest, and the means which it affords of acting upon and influencing the public mind, it constitutes a new era in the annals of the world; and if it were a great discovery to ascertain the circulation of the vital fluid through the natural body, it has been a vastly greater effort of human improvement to give, as by the newspaper press, rapid acceleration of thought through the moral and body politic of an immense empire. It seems, indeed, something more than human—waiting ideas on the wings of the wind—addressing individually the inhabitants of a country dispersed over a vast region of territory, by their own firesides and thus avoiding the evils of ancient republics arising from the political excitement of collected mobs, and from 'the stormy wave of the multitude,' overwhelming alike law, justice and reason—immortalizing the discoveries of genius, and the exploits of greatness—the only effectual instrument that can banish the darkness and overturn the superstitions of a bigoted age and extend and diffuse into every nook and corner the benign influence of the arts, the sciences, and the beautiful and elevating precepts of christianity.

The diffusion of political knowledge is but a small portion of the advantages to be derived from a well regulated newspa-

per press. Its influence is felt through all the ramifications of society—at home and abroad—among the young and the old—the high and the low—the rich and the poor. It is universally promotive of a taste for literature and general knowledge—it is an indispensable medium of intercourse, whose periodical visits are greeted by the domestic circle with genuine emotions of pleasure—it is a herald from all quarters of the globe, and without the regular perusal of which, a person in the present advanced state of knowledge is incapable of taking part in the most ordinary subjects of conversation. Well and truly it is said, that all eyes

'Turn to the Press—its teeming sheets survey
Big with the wonders of each passing day;
Births, deaths, and weddings, forgeries, fires & wrecks.

Harangues and hail storms, brawls and broken necks;

Yes, sweet or bitter, hence what fountains burst,
While still the more we drink the more we thirst!

Trade hardly deems the busy day begun,
Till his keen eye along the page has run:

The blooming daughter throws her needle by,
And reads her schoolmate's marriage with a sigh:

While the grave mother puts her glasses on,
And gives a tear to some old crony gone:
The preacher, too, his Sunday theme lays down,

To know what last new folly fills the town,
Lively or sad, life's meanest, mightiest things,
The fate of fighting cocks or glighting kings:
Naught comes amiss—we take the nauseous stuff,
Verjuice or oil—a libel or a puff.'

Paragraphs on heights. Height of Absurdity.—To call at the eye and ear infirmary, to get an eye drilled into an old knittingneedle.

Height of Folly. To get drunk and lie across a rail road to obtain repose.

Height of Inquisitiveness. To climb to the housetop, and look down the chimney to see what one's neighbor has for dinner.

Height of Civility. To run against a post in the street, and then beg pardon for the encounter.

Height of gallantry. When intoxicated to reel along the street with a lady under your arm to escort her safely home.

Height of buoyism. To catenate with a whip or cowhide, a man whose openly avowed religious principles forbid his fighting even in self defence.

Height of honor. To defend ones landlord or taylor for the sake of discharging ones gambling debts.

Height of temperance. To keep one's skin constantly soaked in ardent spirits without ever getting drunk.

Height of imprudence. To faint away on horseback with alarm and surprise.

Height of philosophy. To starve oneself to death in order to illustrate the beneficial effects of the Graham system.

Height of independence to quarrel with all your neighbors, who will not agree with your own views and notions of things.

Height of tragic acting. To burst a blood vessel while reciting one of the most splendid passages of theatrical bombast.

Height of comic acting. To burst one's breeches while strutting the hero in one of the most passionate scenes of a tragedy.

Height of benevolence. To tumble down the staircase and break your head to avoid stepping on a kitten that is reposing on the stair.

Height of charity. To give a door beggar a dollar, and at the same time threaten to horsewhip him if he ever troubles you again.

Height of ridiculous. After having tumbled down a precipice in a stage coach full of passengers, amidst the shrieks and groans and fainting to hear a lady with tears in her eyes, inquiring after her bandbox.

Height of the sublime. To climb a steeple and revolve on one's own axis around the pinnacle.—*Boston Post.*

A lady clothed in American silk.—At the Agricultural exhibition, of Merrimack county Mass. Mrs. Kimball of Hopkinton New Hampshire was present, robed in rich and durable silks of her own manufacture. She raised the silkworms, reeled, twisted, dyed and wove the silk, and for aught that is known to the contrary, made the garments with her own hand.

Col. Benton has arrived at Washington,