FARM AND HOME.

Selecting Seed Corn.

A New York farmer gives the following rules for the selection of seed corn:

1. The kernel should be ripe, hard and glossy.
2. The ear should be fully developed to the very end, i. e., the kernels should cover the whole cob.
3. The ear should be from a stalk that produced at least two good ears.
4. It is a good plan to go through the corn before cutting it, selecting the best ears and marking them.
5. Leave two or three husks upon each ear by which to "braid" them together, and hang up in a dry place.

Bones for a Vineyard.

One good use for the waste bones of the kitchen is to bury them at the foot of a fruit tree or vine. Make a trench with a sharp spade three feet from the tree or vine, when a peck or so of bones has been gathered, and scatter the bones in the bottom about a foot below the surface, then replace the soil and trample it down. The sharp spade will prune the roots, and from each cut end will spring a mass of fibres which will surround the bones and feed upon them as they decay. This is also an excellent plan for getting rid of old leather, as boots and shoes, old woolen clothing, and even fruit and vegetable cans, as the leather and iron furnish very acceptable food for fruit trees. Iron is especially useful to pear trees, and gives a brilliant color to the fruit.

Production and Cost of Butter.

The cost of butter plainly depends upon the kind of cow. If a cow eats fifteen pounds of hay costing [illegible] cents and ten cents worth of meal a day and gives a pound of butter daily, it is clear that the butter will cost more than twenty-five cents a pound, perhaps thirty cents including everything. If the cow gives less the butter cost more, and if more it costs less. Fifteen pounds of hay with eight pounds of mixed corn and oats ground, fine, will feed a good cow, that should make at least a pound of butter every day. The meal should be given in two rations, morning and evening, with five pounds of cut hay, and five pounds of hay may be given loose at night. This is a common plan for feeding in ordinary dairies.

Protecting Trees from Mice.

A very successful protection against mice, adopted by a successful fruit grower, consists of taking sections of worn-out and damaged stove pipe and, after opening a section at the seam, clasping it around the tree and settling it into the ground. When this has been once properly done it will last for several years and is perhaps the safest protection that can be adopted. Pieces of old tin can be used in the same manner; but usually damaged stove-pipe can be procured, and if used in this way it will be found much better than throwing it away. It is a perfect protection, for the reason that mice never attack trees while they can procure other food, and when they cannot the ground is frozen so that they cannot burrow under the pipe and they never attempt to go over it.

Horse with Heaves.

If the disease is not of long standing, as when brought on by the overfeeding of hay, especially clover or dusty hay, and the hay is taken away, there is a possibility that the horse may yet be useful for some years. But if the horse is well advanced in years and has had the heaves for a long time, there is certainly no prospect of cure. Partial relief may be obtained by feeding very lightly on hay, giving sweet grain as the principal food, and being careful not to let the animal have all the water it will drink. Roots and fresh grass in moderate quantity will not be objectionable. Horses with heaves are usually fed wet food, but if it is perfectly sweet and free from dust wetting is not essential. From seven to ten pounds of hay per day is enough for a heavy horse, and that should be given at night rather than in the morning.—New England Farmer.

Protect the Manure.

An English farmer on using, for the first time, manure that had been made under cover, had his crops ruined by luxuriant growth. He used the same amount as he was accustomed to of the open-yard manure, and the grain was lodged before it was ready to harvest. This is a strong argument in favor of a protection for manure. On most soils it is very important to have it well decomposed, so that the plants may obtain an abundant supply of food from it at once; but during the fermentation process, to render its insoluble compounds available, serious losses of fertilizing materials are very often sustained. If the fermentation of the heap is rapid, there is danger of losing the very valuable nitrogen as volatile ammonia, which, passing into the air, is as likely to aid a neighbor's crop as our own. On the other hand, decomposition may go on so slowly that the manure is unfit for immediate use when wanted. It is no easy matter to conduct the decomposition so that the most good manure may be made with the least loss. It is, however, demonstrated that hot sun, winds, and rains, are to be kept from the heap, and that is, the best manure is made under cover. A method of box-feeding has been adopted by many, which allows the manure to accumulate under the animals for months. It is found that this system does not imply offensive stalls, and that there is little loss of nitrogen—the element of greatest value, and most likely to escape. It is only necessary to use enough litter to absorb all the liquids. Covered yards would secure much the same conditions for the manure by protecting it from the drenching rains, and the exclusion of air by compact treading, which prevents a too hasty fermentation. It is certainly worth while for every farmer who contemplates the use of commercial fertilizers, to see that he is making the most of the manure which his animals are giving him daily. Preserve and protect it diligently.—[American Agriculturalist.

Parasites and Skin Diseases.

Mr. J. S. Latimer, a noted breeder of shorthorns, gives his method of dealing with all kinds of parasites on all kinds of stock. In the spring, when parasitic enemies are more or less troublesome, take common bar or soft soap, heat with a little water till melted, then add carbolic acid crystals in the proportion of one ounce to each pound of soap. The acid may be obtained at a druggist's in one-pound bottles, 75 cents each. Before adding the crystals to the soap they are to be dissolved by removing the cork and setting the bottle in warm water. When the mixture is cool make a strong suds by mixing in a pailful of warm water about two and a half pounds of the preparation; wash the infested animals with the suds. If the first application does not effect a cure try a second and a third, with five days' intervals. It will not take off the hair, but it will take off all insects, and will cure mange, barn itch, scurf or other skin diseases. It is also valuable in the poultry house and is a safe and effectual disinfectant.

Shallow Cultivation for Fruits.

Fruit growers need to be reminded that their hoes, cultivators and ploughs may do more damage to plants than good if not used with discretion. The small fruits—berries, currants, grapes, also dwarf pears, quinces, etc., root near the surface. Here are found the best roots, those that provide most nourishment. Nature designed these to be mulched by the dead leaves, and in our field-mulching would be the best treatment if it were possible. As it is, the best we can do is to give frequent but shallow cultivation. I have seen intelligent men ploughing mighty deep furrows alongside of their raspberries, currants and grapes, well satisfied that they were doing thorough work that would secure an abundant harvest. Let such men dig up one plant before this ploughing and one after, and see what butchery they have committed. There are no taproots stretching far down into the subsoil, but a few laterals branching out say from two to four inches below the surface, and more than half of these have been sacrificed by the ploughshare. When we set green hands hoeing strawberries and newly set raspberries we know what they will do if not watched: they will destroy half their roots and loosen the hold for life that the struggling plants have secured by chopping close about them.—Fruit Garden.

Recipes.

SAGO SOUP.—Take gravy soup, quite clear and brown; add to it a sufficient quantity of sago to thicken it to the consistency of pea soup, and season it with ketchup, to which may be added a little lemon juice. It may also be made as a white soup, of beef, by leaving out the ketchup and adding a little cream, mace and vinegar.

POTATO PUFF.—To two cups of cold mashed potato allow two well-beaten eggs, two tablespoonsful of melted butter and one cup of sweet milk; beat all together until very light, then add the cold meat, chopped very fine. After mixing thoroughly put in a shallow pudding-dish and bake for from twenty minutes to half an hour. If preferred, you can bake in well-buttered gem pans.

EGG TOAST.—Soak small slices of stale bread in milk until they are just moist, but not all broken; then dip them in beaten egg seasoned with salt and pepper, and fry them in a frying-kettle half full of smoking hot fat. When they are light brown take them from the fat with a skimmer, arrange them neatly on a hot dish, dust them with powdered sugar, and serve them hot at once.

BREAD CAKES.—Soak stale bread in sufficient cold milk to make it very soft, almost liquid; then put it over the fire in a thick saucepan, beat it to a smooth batter and let it get scalding hot; remove it from the fire and let it cool a little; to each quart stir in one tablespoonful of yeast, two well-beaten eggs, a level teaspoonful of salt, and enough flour to form a batter which will hold a drop let fall upon it from the mixing spoon. Cover the bowl containing it with a towel folded several times, and let the batter rise over night, if the cakes are intended for breakfast; or four or five hours, if they are to be used during the day.

Hay fever is Mr. Beecher's ideal of the superlative of human suffering. Perchance Mr. Beecher never plowed up an old pasture field and run a furrow straight through an old stump containing two million invisible yellow jackets, and the creek half a mile away and not a patch of brush this side of it.

Something About Spiders.

The destruction of insects by spiders is enormous. I have counted 250 insects, small and great, hanging entangled in one orb web. In one net in Fairmount Park I counted thirty eight mosquitoes; in another, hung under a bridge at Asbury Park, and out of reach, there must have been two or three times as many. Green head flies by the legion have been seen in the webs that fairly enlace the boat houses at Atlantic City and Cape May. The very small spiders prey upon microscopic insects like gnats and devour myriads. A glance at the fields, bushes and trees on a dewy morning in September will reveal an innumerable multitude of webs spread over the landscape, all occupied by spiders of various ages, sizes and families, and all busy destroying the insect pests of man.

There are several species of spiders, divided into two classes, the sedentary and the wandering spiders. To the first class belong the orb weavers, who make a circular web; the line weavers, whose web is labyrinthian; the tube weavers, who hang their nests on walls or rocks or branches of trees, and the tunnel weavers, who live in tunnels cut into the earth and having automatic doors ingeniously contrived. In the wanderers are included the citegrades, whose motions are quick and vivacious; the laterigrades, who have a queer sideways motion, and the saltigrades, who jump, and dance and vault. The dolomede spider is a swimmer, and lives on or under water. She builds her nest on a detached branch of a tree or bush, which she makes into a tent. The argiopa fasciapa, or banded spider, is a silver yellow and black color.

Spiders are not social creatures. They are generally, on the contrary, of solitary habits, and are mostly cannibals, eating each other with great gusto. They mate in the spring and autumn, and the mating is often a trying and dangerous one. They reverse the order of nature in one respect, for the males are infinitely inferior in every respect to the females, and the latter are well aware of the fact. Their courtships are scenes of violence, and not of love and peace. The lady looks with sublime contempt upon the gentleman and keeps him at a distance. He can only approach her by stratagem, and sometimes she nips off one of his legs in her anger and casts him adrift a cripple. I have seen poor fellows who have lost four out of their eight legs, and still they were attracted to the opposite sex like moths to a candle. A spider will never eat her own young, but the males will destroy them when they can. The mother either goes away or dies soon after the hatching of her eggs, which number about 100 to each nest, and the little ones are thrown upon the world almost as soon as they see light. There are several varieties who carry their eggs in a silk pouch until they are hatched. The tube weavers sometimes care for their young until they are able to get about, and I had a brood of about sixty in my yard until the rains destroyed them.

Spiders have numerous enemies, and much of their clever nest building is designed for protection against these inroads. Toads and birds destroy them by the thousands, and a little parasite called the ichneumon—a small fly—lays its eggs in the cocoons of the spider, and when the larvæ appears it feeds first on the eggs and later on the young spiders. Orb weavers and line weavers desert their eggs when laid, and meet their offspring, where they live so long, as strangers. Another bitter enemy of the spider is the mud-daubing wasp, which has a process that might be valuable to humanity, if it could be discovered, of keeping a supply of fresh meat. When they capture a spider that is not needed for present use they sting it in such a manner that it lives, but has no power to move until such time as the captor is ready to devour it. It is rather a singular thing that the wasp in its babyhood feeds on meat, but in its maturity eats nothing but the nectar of flowers.—*Philadelphia Press.*

Wedding Rings.

Most women have a sincere interest in betrothal and wedding rings, so that a few facts picked up concerning them may not come amiss. The first has altered noticeably in shape and setting. A pure white diamond, the only suitable gem, is underset in short claws so that the stone hides the setting completely. Polished gold is preferred to Roman gold. The shank is oval and tapers from the gem. There is neither enamel nor engraving on its surface, and inscriptions are cut inside as the purchaser may order. It is but an old fashion revived, and one which will be liked. In the last thirty years wedding rings have changed twice in style, from the narrow, double circlet to the polished oval; and lastly the plain, wide, flat band, which is now also preferable in polished gold. A fourth style, and one eminently in harmony with the present temper of romantic sentiment, might well revive the ornament which decorated a ring discovered long ago in Egyptian ruins. It represented two cats, sitting back to back, and between them the goddess of love, who smiles sweetly on vacancy while they glare around at each other in genuine Kilkenny fashion. Such rings are generally made to order.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Fashion Notes.

Watered Irish poplins have come into fashion.

Very small buttons to fasten the corsage is the latest freak of fashion.

The wicker-basket bonnets so fashionable in Paris have reached America.

Bonnet crowns completely shingled with small feathers will be much worn.

The new de beiges come in improved forms, finely finished and illuminated.

Blouse waists for children and young girls never go entirely out of fashion.

Red hats, red feathers, red gloves, and red stockings are worn by the million.

The jackets, ulsterettes and sacques for early fall wear are made longer this season.

Very plain skirts will be much worn, but not to the exclusion of more elaborate ones.

Colored handkerchiefs are brought out in the loveliest combinations of æsthetic colors.

Plaids are worn by women who affect English styles; they are not generally becoming.

The wearing of green and red together is revived, but both colors must be in subdued tones.

Pompadour designs and stripes appear in the new evening silks intended for the dressiest toilets.

Raspberry-andersain color rivals strawberry as a popular color for millinery and evening dress.

Full lace jabots, reaching from the neck to the point of the bodice, will be worn with dressy indoor costumes.

The bouffant tournure draperies as now worn give all women very unsymmetrical and even ludicrous figures.

The latest fancy for neck lingerie is to unite several colors in the ribbon bows that mingle with the laces at the throat.

Dressy cloth suits are tailor finished, and then made effective with handsome soutache embroideries and artistic crochet buttons.

Every lady should have a plush jacket in black, seal brown, or some other color which will harmonize with any kind of a skirt.

Flowers are now but little worn in the corsage in demi-toilet, being replaced by knots of ribbon in hues contrasting with that of the dress.

Grecian lynx, a long-haired, light-colored fur of a yellowish tinge, will be a very fashionable fur for trimming winter cloaks and costumes.

For dinner or ballroom wear brocaded moire antiques are very fashionable. In white these superb fabrics are very handsome for bridal dresses.

A Learned Woman.

The most learned woman in the world is Miss Ramnabai, a young lady of twenty, who is now in Paris. She is a native of India, and can read and write and talk in twelve languages, having a wonderful gift in that way, besides being up in mathematics, astronomy and history. She is studying medicine, and will go to India to practice, where she says thousands of her countrywomen die every year because they will not consult male physicians.

New Industry.

Mrs. Chapman of New York has built up a new industry for women in the manufacture of feather-edged braid. She began by making large collars for children out of two braids connected together, or aided in forming designs, by lace stitches and crochet stitches, executed with needles and knitting cotton. This was four years ago. The demand speedily outgrew her powers of supply. She now has seven hundred women working for her, many of them being married ladies, who wish to have a little money of their "very own." Seventy-five thousand collars were supplied last year to the wholesale house which takes Mrs. Chapman's work.

Single Women.

A clever old maid once said that it was far better to be laughed at because you were not married than not be able to laugh because you were. There is sound logic in that. It is well for woman to marry if she meets a good, true man, who loves her and whom she loves; but, if she be not suited, better that she remain single. Many old maids are helpful, loveable and sweet-tempered, and fill their allotted niche as acceptably as do their married sisters. Are they not more to be honored than they would have been had they merely married for a home or position? Our young ladies have erroneous ideas on this subject. They almost disgraced if they have arrived at a mature age and are not able to write "Mrs." before their names. Their whole ambition is to get a husband, by hook or by crook, but get him somehow they must. Consequently they take the first man who offers himself, whether he really suits them or not. Now, girls, do not marry in haste. Get the best education possible, help about domestic affairs, and enter some trade or profession for which you have a taste, and master it. Skilled labor is always well paid. Don't spend your time repining because you cannot see the coming man. If you never see him you can lead useful, happy lives.

Lost His Wager.

The late French Ambassador to the Russian court always carried a very valuable gold cigarette-case, which had been presented to him by the Emperor. General Ignatieff advised the Ambassador to be careful of his prize, as St. Petersburg was full of pickpockets. Whereupon the diplomatist offered to lay a wager that he would go all over the city during his stay there, with the cigarette-case about him, without losing it. General Ignatieff accepted the wager, and invited the Ambassador to take a cup of tea with him at the Raspberry Bush, a noted drinking place, informing him that it was a sight worth seeing. They repaired to this establishment and ordered tea, after which the Ambassador pulled out his cigarette-case, offered the General a cigarette, lighted one himself, and returned the case to his breast pocket, keeping his hand on it. When they descended to the street the Ambassador was astonished to find that his cigarette case had gone, and that a piece of soap of the same shape and size was left in its stead. The proprietor was informed of the theft and the trinket was restored to him on the following day.

The Interior Heat of the Earth.

A committee of the British Association summarizes the data as to the internal heat of the earth, collected at thirty-five localities, many of them widely separated. Observations were made in England, in France, in the St. Gothard tunnel, in Wales, in Russia and in India. At Liverpool the heat increased one degree Fahrenheit for each one hundred and thirty feet of descent toward the centre of the earth; at Paris the rate was one degree for each fifty-six feet, while, surprising to relate, at Yakutz it was one degree for fifty-two feet of descent. The mean rate for all the observations was one degree for each sixty-four feet downward, which is a somewhat smaller rate than has hitherto been received. At the depth of two miles below the surface of the globe the heat suffices to boil water. At a depth of between fifty and a hundred miles the heat is supposed to be such as to melt the most refractory substance.

A move is being made in Philadelphia to compel people to take in such bay-windows as have been obstructing the street for the last twenty years. One Philadelphia fat man on a street car is more of an obstruction than ten bay-windows on the sidewalk.

The New York *Evening Telegram* says: Tony Pastor was cured of rheumatic pains by St. Jacobs Oil. He praises its efficacy.

Adam Kirpen, of Chicago, has a beard twelve feet long. That's all. Nothing said as to whether he has any brains or not.

Vast merit is inherent in St. Jacobs Oil, and we heartily recommend it to our readers. Chicago (Ill.) *Western Catholic.*

Mr. Gladstone owns a piece of land at Niagara Falls, and refuses to sell it at any price. He has probably got a toll-gate on it.

A policeman in Gallen, O., had his shoes stolen from his feet while he slept at his post.

Emaciation a Remediable Defect.

Leanness not only detracts from personal comeliness, but is an index that the blood is deficient in nutritive qualities. To remedy emaciation, enrich and purify the blood, which will then develop healthy flesh. This object is most readily attained through the agency of the great blood purifier and depurent, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which enables the stomach to extract from the food taken into it ample nourishment for the system, removes all obstacles to complete digestion and assimilation, and by stimulating the kidneys to vigorous action incites those organs to strain from the vital fluid in its passage through them impurities which would otherwise impair its flesh-creating qualities. Not only do the Bitters promote the development of solid fiber, but they also increase muscular power and elasticity, overcome nervousness, banish mental depression, and protect the system against disease.

To get up a dinner of great variety, cooks should be allowed a wide range.

Deacon Smith buys Carboline, the deodorized petroleum hair renewer and restorer, and, since its improvement, recommends it to all his friends as the perfection of all hair preparations.

"Rough on Rats." Clears out rats, mice, flies, roaches, bed-bugs, ants, vermin. 15c.

MOTHER SWAIN'S WORM SYRUP, for feverishness, restlessness, worms. Tasteless. 25c.

One pair of boots saved every year by using Lyon's Patent Metallic Heel Stiffeners.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS TO LIVE.

From John Kuhn, Lafayette, Ind., who announces that he is now in "perfect health." We have the following: "One morning I was, to all appearances, in the last stages of Consumption. Our best physicians gave my case up. I finally got so low that our doctor said I could not live twenty-four hours. My friends then purchased a bottle of DR. WM. HALL'S BALSAM FOR THE LUNGS, which considerably benefited me. I continued until I took nine bottles. I am now in perfect health, having used no other medicine."

DR. DEWITT C. KELLINGER'S LINIMENT is an infallible cure for Rheumatism, Sprains, Lameness and Diseases of the Scalp, and for promoting the growth of the Hair.

The shorter the tunnel the [illegible] the kiss.

B N U 45