

FOR THE FARM AND HOME.

SODA LEGS OR FOOTS.

The crusted substance which grows upon foot's legs and forms thick scales is caused by the work of a small mite, a scab-mite, which burrows under the scales and causes an effusion of watery matter, which dries and hardens, and forms scabs. In time these scabs fall off and new scabs appear. But sometimes the legs become so diseased as to prevent the foot from moving. The remedy is to wash the legs with warm water in which some soap and kerosene oil have been beaten up; then thoroughly work in under the scabs with a brush a mixture of equal parts of sweet oil and kerosene oil.

Beignons.

Begonias in summer should have a cool, shaded situation. The best plan we have ever seen adopted was a small lattice house, made entirely out of laths placed half an inch apart, sides and top alike, benches were arranged on either side, the same as in an ordinary greenhouse; upon these the plants were placed and all the interstices filled with sphagnum. There the plants thrived most luxuriantly; we have never seen greenhouse plants in summer look better, if as well. Not only was this the congenial home of the begonia, but all kinds of ferns, cedars, and many other plants, grown expressly for exhibition purposes, were here to be seen in the best possible condition. This was the work of an amateur, and when his plants were placed beside those of the professional florist, the latter was completely put up.—*American Cultivator*.

HOW TO GROW Grapes Vines.

An agricultural paper says: We desire to have new varieties of grapes come quickly into bearing. Our vines from nurseries are frequently tardy. Even for carefully nursing they will often drop and die while a few buds cut off on arrival and properly guarded may produce fruit in a short time. Grafting on cut off, underground, gnarly stems of vines, usually practised, is very uncertain at best. Our method is to take a good-sized branch or cane of vine, even a whole young vine, when a change of variety is desired, and whip the graft in in a natural way. We then cover up the vine in the soil as near the roots as possible, leaving above ground only a bud or two of the graft. It is well known how quickly a layer will make a bearing vine, as it has the advantage of the parent roots as well as the root of produces. The layer may be extended, if long enough, to grow where the vine is to remain. Varieties may in this way be quickly changed to better varieties.

Working the Butter.

Butter may be spoiled in working it. The object in working the butter is to remove the buttermilk, work in the salt, and form it into a solid mass. After the butter has come out of the churn and before it has been gathered into a mass, it is well to drain off the buttermilk, add cold salt, stir, mix it about, and add more water till it passes off clear, and the butter is quite free from the milk. It is then to be removed from the churn and salted, usually at the rate of about one ounce of salt to the pound of butter. The butter should be marked with a little butter marker, and not be treated with the hands. When it has been worked till the salt is perfectly distributed, set it aside to stand for twenty-four hours or less. It will then appear streaky, and is to be worked over till it becomes free from the streaks, and is even in color throughout. The first working requires about ten minutes for a coating of twenty to twenty-five points, and the second working about fifteen minutes. The making of good butter is a fine art of itself, but when this can once been acquired, it is an accomplishment of which no one need be ashamed.

Pruning the Cherry Tree.

The cherry tree must be moderately pruned when it requires pruning, and young trees when transplanted, or young trees out back for grafting, must have this work done early in spring before the buds have swollen a particle. Young cherry stocks have been killed by grafting when the grafts did not grow, by being deprived of their entire foliage, and nearly set trees have been ruined by cutting back too late in spring. In transplanting, the cherry requires reducing at the top as well as other fruit trees, but it must be done moderately and will not bear the operation after the leaves have swelled. We tried the experiment of cutting back early a part of a newly set orchard, and left a few trees till the leaves had begun to expand before pruning. Those which were timely shortened did well and made next shoots from half a foot to a foot long, but those on which the operation was deferred scarcely survived; and did not grow an inch. Bearing trees sometimes need some thinning or shortening into shape. Mr. Jessup stated in the California fruit convention that a different treatment was required for different sorts; on the black Tartarian for instance, which grows tall and upright, he always cut so as to leave the outside growth running out or diverging; but on the Napoleon, which has a spreading growth, he takes out the

horizontal branches and leaves those with a more upright and symmetrical form. By watching the trees and doing the work in time, he never makes large wounds by the removal of large limbs. He never uses any props for any kind of trees in his orchard, but keeps the fruit properly thinned by pruning and by not allowing long branches to run out.—*Country Gentleman*.

Household Hints.

Sponges are improved by being soaked in cold butter milk.

Nothing is better for whitening garments, particularly those that have become yellow from being laid aside for several months than a tea-spoonful of borax dissolved in the rinsing water.

For washing hands that have become cracked or blackened, there is nothing better than Indian meal rubbed on with the soap. It not only removes the dirt, but softens and whitens the hands as well. For men or boys doing farm or shop work it is excellent, and should be always kept on hand.

To keep off the excessive heat of sunshines, it is a good thing to have a veil so contrived as to cover the back of the neck, ears and side of the face, or forever the whole face if preferred; such a precaution makes a great difference in a prolonged exposure to the sun, and in some cases such an arrangement is almost equally advantageous while walking or riding in a very cool wind.

When Niagara Was Dry.

A correspondent of the Buffalo Courier relates an instance when the great Niagara ceased to flow, and describes remarkable discoveries in the dry channel, as follows:

In the spring of 1849, I think it was at all events, it was about that date, the people on the bank of the Niagara were surprised to see the water suddenly receding from the shore. It continued to fall until there was about half a mile of water flowing through the rapids, except a small stream in the very middle of the river bed. A man in a canoe contrived a medium canoe to go out of the rapids, and attracted people to the river from far and near. I have forgotten just how long the water ceased to flow, but it does not bear for nearly a day. What was done while the river bed was dry could not have been accomplished short of several hours, and I distinctly remember that hundred of people spent most of the day in exploring the bottom. For some reason the expression provoked many people in Clifton, that the river channel was a spring similar to the bubbling geyser near the head of the stream, over the head of the rock.

The little girl's father was the keeper of the park, and soon after her discovery of the egg he sent and his successor was appointed. Fearing that foxes or jackals would eat her treasure, or that the cold dew would destroy it, the little girl carried the big egg to the bungalow, and buried it safely in a hollow bay filled with dry white sand. Thus she took pains to set out in the sun every day just where the foxes might be, and the egg was safe.

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By suddenly taking the great right of the prisoner, a giant club from the shell, and stepped into view. The howl of her feathers, spread her wings, and fled.

The little girl and the oyster became fast friends, and one was never seen without the other. What was now perishing when the park-keeper took it into his head that the oyster was a spring similar to the bubbling geyser near the head of the stream, over the head of the rock.

Scarcely constituted, and are enough a gas well of large proportions, was discovered, quite a distance out in the channel, opposite the mouth of Chippewa creek. The thought occurred to somebody that it would be a good idea, now that the river was dry, to attach a tube to the well and keep the gas burning. Accordingly a number of men repaired to the foundry in the village, and there found a large iron kettle such as is used in boiling down salts. They drilled a hole in the bottom, put a tube in it, fitted a piece of tubing to it, and carted the two pieces to the well in the river-channel. The kettle was turned bottom side up over the well, the tube inserted in the bottom, and a glass lamp put on the top, the wick being to have a sort of natural bacon light. But the flow of gas was so strong that when a match was applied the lamp was blown into fragments. The gas, however, continued to burn from the end of the tube, making a brilliant light at night, for a long time afterward, and until the tube was carried away by ice.

Coining Metals.

The coining of all the metals is practically the same. The gold comes to the mint in properly alloyed ingots, weighing about 180 ounces each. These ingots are taken to the rolling-room, where they are heated to a bright red heat and then beat between chilled iron molds until they are twenty-eighths of an inch thick and about six inches wide. The plates are then annealed at a red heat and are plunged in cold water, which makes the gold or silver soft and tough. The plates are again rolled into plates, the required thickness for the coin, called fillets, and these fillets are then "drawn" to give them a uniform thickness. The fillets are next cut into round blanks, or "planchets," a little larger than the required coin. Every blank is here carefully examined, to see if it is perfect, and if it is too light, it is remelted, and its weight is reduced by filing. The next process is to raise the slight rim on the edge of the coin, which is done by a milling machine at the rate of 120 coins a minute. By these processes the blanks have become hard and discolored, and they are again cleaned and annealed, which process is quite a long one. The blanks are then coined.

It is impossible to describe the coining machine, but the blanks are fed to it through a tube. A peculiar iron hand takes each piece and lays it upon the lower face of the die. Both faces of the coin and the dies are struck with one blow, when the iron hand picks up the coin and puts another blank in its place. The pressure upon the coin is for a 20 gold piece, equal to about seventy-five tons, and eighty pieces are coined per minute.

CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

Sweet Peas.
"Please wear my necklace for love, Papa." Said Phoebe with eyes so blue.
"This sprig of myrtle put with it, Papa, To tell of my love," said Phoebe.
"Sweet Patience," this heard over half whisper, Papa.
"Forget not my love is true!"
Papa looked into the laughing eyes, And answered back laughing, "I suppose—My darling, I thank you, but dear me, these—"
Forgive me—for dear me, are you sweet peas?"
Then he clasped them close to his heart.
And whispered, "Sweet Peas."—*Papa, the Present*.—*Editor, Popular Science.*

The Gorilla.

The gorillas are the terror of Africa. In the gorilla country no lion will live. They are man-eaters and kill them for the love of it, leaving the body, never eating it. When they spy a negro, they come down from a tree, hit him on the head with a club, which they wield with their hind claw, or carry him up into a tree, there to mangle him. Their strength is so great that they will bend the boughs of a tree. Only one live one was ever brought to England, and that soon died. Several have been shot, but they are tough customers, and the natives dread them more than any animal of the African forests. The gorilla makes a bad hammock, and swings in the trees. The gorilla is the sworn enemy of the elephant, because each derives strength from the same source. When he sees an elephant pulling down and wrenching off the branches of a favorite tree, the gorilla tears among the tough stalks this sensitive phalanx of the elephant a terrible blow with his club, and drives off the大象 to the same source. Then he sees an elephant pulling down and wrenching off the branches of a favorite tree, the gorilla tears among the tough stalks this sensitive phalanx of the elephant a terrible blow with his club, and drives off the elephant.

"Are you confident your health will permit such an undertaking?"

A ringing laugh was the first reply to this question, after which she said:

"Cynthia! I am too young to be ill for the winter, so you can have me for the next two years, and I am ready to do my best."

"Yes indeed, My season begins in Chicago on July 16. From thence I go to San Francisco, and then play the remainder of the season through the Eastern and Western States."

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