FOR THE FARM AND HOME.

Fertilizing.

Where the soil is known to be poor, or scantily manured, a topdressing of phosphate, at the rate of 200 pounds to the acre, will often increase the yield the first season enough to pay the cost of its application. Wood ashes, at the rate of ten or fifteen bushels to the acre, will produce equally good results upon some soils, particularly such as need potash, and upon others plaster gives a large increase of the crop, but more particularly of the clover crop.

The result obtained from plaster differs greatly upon different soils, and no rule can be given for determining where it will do well and where it will not, yet, as a ton (enough to topdress ten acres) can be bought for $7.50, and in many locations for much less, and as it can do no injury when used to that extent, each farmer should try for himself whether its use will be profitable to him or not.

All topdressing of grass land, except such as may be done with the nitrates or ammoniacal salts, should be accomplished as early in the spring as the grass begins to start, or even before that time, but not while the ground is frozen. Nitrate of soda, or those fertilizers which contain it in considerable quantities, give best results if used later in the season.

The profit of buying fertilizers for topdressing grass lands depends very much upon the cost of breaking up and reseeding the land, and the objections which there may be to doing so. Fields have been kept in grass many years by such topdressing every one year in three or four, and have paid fair interest on cost of land and fertilizer, but not every field will do this, and where land can be broken up and reseeded without more expense than the usual cost of such work, it will usually pay best to do it go until the fall, and then do the work thoroughly.—*New York Herald.*

Fumigation and Insects.

Tobacco smoke applied with a fumigator is one of the cheapest and easily applied means of ridding chickens of lice by the fumigator. Some use yellow snuff with good success, claiming it thoroughly rids the hens. Either of the above is sure death to vermin. There is a wash or dip made by a Maryland firm which is a very effective remedy for lice on cattle and ticks on sheep. The only objection to using it at this season is the liability of injuring the animals from getting chilled by washing in cold weather. Cedar boughs scattered freely around the fowl-house will cause the lice to leave. Insect powder is also another cheap remedy and easy of application.

It should be thoroughly sifted into the hair. Only a small quantity is required to accomplish the purpose, and most of the lice on an animal may be found upon the neck, around the roots of the horns and roots of the ears, or upon the brisket. Druggists claim that this powder is only poisonous to such insects as breathe through the pores of their skin.

To all such it acts as an irritant and produces death, while those animals which take air into the lungs through their nostrils suffer no inconvenience from inhaling it in small quantities. They also claim that there is no danger from poisoning by cattle licking themselves after an application of the powder. Some recommend mixing insect powder with an equal quantity of sulphur for killing lice on hens; then, after removing all litter from the floor, apply to the head and neck, also between the legs and under each wing.

After allowing the flock to remain an hour or two let them out and pour boiling water over the floor or ground where the fowls stood, so as to kill the vermin which has fallen from them. The addition of carbolic acid in crystals, in the proportion of one ounce of acid to two quarts of the hot water, will be of great advantage, as it makes an excellent disinfectant. The nests should be sprinkled with a solution of about twice the above strength. In regard to feeding sulphur to stock, the general belief now is that it does not possess much value as a medicine, yet there are those who think it a preventive of disease. Some excellent stock raisers mix sulphur with Liverpool salt, in the proportion of one part of sulphur to eight parts of salt, and keep the mixture in open troughs where cattle, sheep and horses have free access to it. Sulphur was formerly used quite extensively as a laxative, but there are other articles which are considered preferable.—*American Cultivator.*

Recipes.

Beef Stew.—To utilize dry bread and cold beefsteak, toast the bread, cut the steak in pieces, put in frying-pan with a small piece of butter and water to cover it. Pepper and salt to taste. Boil gently ten minutes and turn it over the toast.

Lemon Rice Pudding.—To two-thirds of a cup of rice, boiled and cooled, add the well-beaten yolks of three eggs, salt, a teaspoonful of butter, three tablespoonfuls of sugar and the grated rind of two lemons; with milk enough to make very moist. Bake forty-five minutes. Use whites of eggs and juice of lemons for frosting, and brown.

Baked Eggs.—Take five eggs and put the yolks in a bowl and stir with a little salt and pepper. The whites should be beaten to a stiff froth, and if there are more whites than yolks, the dish is so much better. After the whites are stiff as can be, pour the yolks over them and mix lightly with a spoon, then turn all instantly into a hot baking-dish with a little melted butter in the bottom and bake immediately.

Vegetable Soup.—Put a soup bone weighing two or three pounds into as much water as you want for soup. When it comes to a boil remove the scum and salt to taste. Take a bunch of parsely and a couple of stalks of celery with the green left on; chop up with a knife on a board and put into the kettle. Add half a teacup of barley, two potatoes, a small turnip and carrot, also chopped up, and lastly a teacupful of canned tomatoes. Do not stir it at all. Cook three hours. The last hour let it boil slowly on top of the stove.

The Coffee Tree.

Now that beautiful leaved plants are so justly popular, and in such constant request for drawing-room decoration, it is surprising that the coffee tree of commerce (Coffea Arabica), is not made use of. We see it now and then in nurserymen's greenhouses, but seldom anywhere else, and yet there are few evergreen shrubs more ornamental, and very few that are better adapted for the adornment of the sitting room. An average temperature of seventy degrees in summer, and sixty degrees in winter, will be found quite sufficient, and if the plant is put in a warm corner in the room over the kitchen fire on frosty nights no harm will come to it. The best soil for planting is a mixture of peat and loam. The drainage must be thorough, the supply of water abundant, and the roots must have plenty of room. The coffee in a young state is well worth growing for the sake of its bright green, glossy leaves, fragrant scented white blossoms and berries changing from green to red. It is said that Omar Mogalledin, a learned mufti of Aden, became acquainted with it during one of his African journeys. He took back some berries with him to Yemen and recommended the beverage to his friends as an excellent method of keeping awake at prayers. Its use gradually spread to the Nile, Syria, Asia Minor and Turkey. Coffee was first sold in Constantinople in 1554. It was introduced in Europe by the Dutch in 1690, but did not reach this country till 1840. Arabia is originally grown in Yemen, where it was first planted in the neighborhood of Aden and Mocha. The plantations are usually made half way up the hills. The berries are not gathered, but cloths are spread under the trees for the fruit to fall on when ripe. The coffee is mostly consumed in the country, the home demand being so great. There is not much exported, and that not the best. A great deal of what goes in the trade by the name of Mocha coffee comes from Brazil and the West Indies.—*Gardener's Monthly.*

Presidential Handwriting.

Abraham Lincoln wrote a small, careful hand.

The handwriting of General Grant is easy to read.

Andrew Johnson's handwriting was large and labored. His fingers seemed all thumbs.

Zachary Taylor wrote with a blunt pen, with few flourishes and no attempt at ornamentation.

John Tyler, next to Garfield, was the best writer among the Presidents. He wrote a clear, legible, open hand.

Martin Van Buren did not like to write, but when he did sign his name it was in large, round characters.

Franklin Pierce was the worst writer of all the Presidents. His writing was not pretty, but it could be easily read.

The handwriting of William Henry Harrison was classic. He was a man of varied accomplishments and wide information.

No one would ever be able to counterfeit the handwriting of Rutherford B. Hayes. He never made the same letter the same way twice.

James Buchanan was proud of his handwriting. He prided himself on his punctuation, spelling and the elegance of his style of composition.

James K. Polk made a signature which looks like copper-plate. Every line of it is well made, and there is a flourish under it which would do honor to a writing teacher.

From the Frying Pan to the Fire.

Minister—I learn that a number of the young men in town have formed an anti-swearing society.

One of the Young Men—Yes, sir. We bind ourselves not to make use of a profane word for a year under a severe penalty.

Minister—A most praiseworthy idea and one that I warmly commend. The prevalence of profanity is truly deplorable. May I ask what penalty you have established?

One of the Young Men—Yes, sir. The member who breaks over is compelled to set up the drinks for the entire crowd.—*New York Sun.*

A Nevada ranchman has a herd of hybrid cattle, a cross between the buffalo and the domestic cow. They are very hardy and thrive where other cattle would starve. Their beef is said to be excellent, and yarn has been spun from their hair.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The minds of mesmerists will be somewhat disquieted by a clever invention lately brought out at Paris by Dr. Ochorowicz. By means of this little instrument the inventor asserts that it is possible to discover the hypnotic propensities of any individual. This is done by putting a finger through a tubular magnet, the edges of which have been covered by a piece of soft iron. After two minutes the finger is withdrawn, and if the patient is a mesmeric subject, symptoms such as involuntary movement, numbness, dryness of the skin of the finger will at once appear, lasting for a few moments. Experiments have proved that about 70 per cent. of mankind can be subjected to mesmeric influences, while on the rest the hypnoscope has no effect.

The spurious honey is put up in little square boxes, which sell for from twenty to thirty cents a pound. It looks like honey, and it is said that it takes an excellent judge to tell that it is a fraud on the bee. The comb is manufactured with such skill that but few can tell it from the genuine article. It is made from paraffine or beeswax, and the honey is blown into it by machinery. Another kind is put up in glass vessels like ordinary jelly packages, the centre of which contains a piece of honeycomb, and the honey is made by pouring about six parts of glucose around the part of honey in the comb. Some of it is adulterated with glucose, some with cane sugar, with the syrup of inverted cane sugar and others by heating ordinary sugar with an acid, but it all resembles honey and to a certain extent has its flavor and color.

In the greater number of railway stations in England there is a small box on legs, painted crimson, which may be called an automatic postoffice. It is divided into two compartments, on the top are apertures admitting a penny, one being for postal cards and the other for envelopes. You drop a penny through the slot and open a little drawer beneath, and presto, you find a postal card. Drop two pennies in the right hand slot, open a corresponding drawer, and you find a stamped envelope containing a dainty sheet of note paper. These little conveniences are the property of a private company. The profit is very small, and only on the envelope and sheet of note paper. A man can't get the best of it by dropping in a bad penny, as if not full weight it refuses to deliver and keeps your short coin, condemning this as a punishment for your attempt to cheat. It has a golden rule that works only one way.

Indianapolis, Ind., has a roller-skating rink with a paper floor. The novel surface for roller-skates has been practically tested by thousands, who unite in pronouncing it admirably adapted to the purpose, being without joints, perfectly smooth, and, in comparison with wood and cement floors, noiseless. It was made by pasting and pressing straw boards together under a powerful hydraulic press, the process being the same as that used in preparing the discs for paper car wheels. After the pressed blocks of straw board were thoroughly dried and seasoned, they were sawed up to the shape of flooring boards and laid with the edge of the paper forming the surface of the floor. The latter was sandpapered until it was as smooth as one unbroken sheet of ice naturally formed on still water. What pleases the roller-skaters most is that the inherent adhesive qualities of the paper prevent any slipping of the rollers on the novel and already highly popular floor.

Cutting Glass With Scissors.

Many persons may not be aware that glass can be cut under water with greatest ease to almost any shape by simply using a pair of shears or strong scissors. In order to insure success two points must be attended to—first and most important, the glass must be kept quite level in the water while the scissors are applied; and secondly, to avoid risk, it is better to begin the cutting by taking off small pieces at the corners and along the edges, and to reduce the shape gradually to that required, for if any attempt is made to cut the glass to the shape as we would cut a piece of cardboard, it will be most likely to break just where it is not wanted. Some kinds of glass cut much better than others; the softer glass is the best for the purpose. The scissors need not depend on the state of the edge presented to the glass. When the operation goes on well the glass breaks away from the scissors in small pieces in a straight line with the blades. This method of cutting glass has often been of service when a diamond has not been at hand, for cutting ovals and segments, and though the edges are not as smooth as might be desired for some purposes, it will answer in many cases. The two hints given above, if strictly followed, will always insure success.—*Pittsburg Dispatch.*

Corners Wanted.

Jones.—"I hear that a Western speculator is getting up a corner on roller skates."

Smith.—(just out of the hospital)—"Humph! What I would like to see is a corner on two on the wheels."—*Call.*

CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

Cigars were not known until 1815. Before that time pipes only were used.

When you hire a servant in Mexico, it is with the understanding that his or her entire family reside with you.

Bombay husbands cut off their wives' noses for punishment. In a single week five such cases were reported.

The largest bill manufactured by the United States government is of the denomination of $10,000. It is the same size as the dollar bill, and has Andrew Jackson's picture in the corner.

Iron bridges are sent from this country to Brazil now at the rate of about four a month. They are shipped in sections, and, when they reach Brazil, are put up in place of wooden bridges on the Brazilian highways.

Sir Erasmus Wilson states that hair may turn white in a few hours from mental disturbance, and that it is caused by the rapid development of gaseous fluid within the substance of the hair obscuring the pigmentary granules.

The following account is given of the origin of the term "eavesdropper:" At the revival of Masonry, in 1717, a curious punishment was inflicted upon a man who listened at the door of a Masonic meeting in order to hear its secrets. He was summarily sentenced to be placed under the eaves of an outhouse while it was raining hard till the water ran in under the collar of his coat and out at his shoes." The penalty was inflicted on the spot, and the name has continued ever since.

How Envelopes are Made.

"They are coming back to old customs again," remarked a prominent stationer to a reporter.

"What's that?" queried the reporter.

"I mean," continued the stationer, "that there is fast growing a crave to use sealing-wax on letters instead of mucilage. Why, do you know that ladies are most anxious to revive the custom. They have lots of time to spare, and they see a flavor of æsthetic in several dainty stamps of red sealing wax, with the words 'My love to thee' on the back of the envelope. Business men are far different. They find the already mucilaged envelope the most convenient and readiest, particularly when in a hurry."

"What is the process of manufacture?"

"Piles of paper, cut into the required sizes, first catch the eye upon entering one of these mills. These slips of paper are passed through a small and by no means complicated machine, and they come forth as envelopes, gummed and ready for use, at the rate of about 300 per minute. These are piled in stacks by the million, and are shipped in cases containing from 100,000 to 500,000. The machine that does the work is known as the Leader, and does its work well. By means of a simple attachment to this machine postal envelopes are made, printed and stamped at the same time."

"What is the cost of manufacture?"

"Ordinary letter envelopes can be made as low as 30 cents per 1,000, and the number of envelopes manufactured daily in the United States is approximately 10,000,000 per day. These are consumed principally in this country. Some are sent to Canada, South America, West Indies, Australia and Russia. At one time large shipments were sent to Liverpool, but they have our improved machinery there now and are manufacturing for themselves."

"How long have envelopes been manufactured in this country?"

"Since 1843, by Pierson; but it was in 1846 that Jacob Berlin took hold and made it a paying business. Of course, we took our ideas from the Japanese, who were the first to use envelopes for the purpose of containing perfumes."—*Printing and Stationery World.*

How Thieves "Work" Hotels.

The crack hotel-thieves ordinarily travel in pairs, although they are, to all appearances, unknown to each other. The first night after registering at a hotel they sleep late, and, when roused by the chambermaid, request them to call them at noon. When the maid has completed her labors in the corridor in which their rooms are located their business begins. The vacant rooms are located and while one thief stands on watch his confederate effects an entrance to an unoccupied room by means of a skeleton key and closes the door behind him. He then rapidly bores a hole immediately over the bolt and fills up each end with white putty. If the lock is a double one, as is the case in many first-class hotels, a small hole is drilled through it, so that nippers can be used on the inside lock in turning the key after the victim has retired. A half dozen rooms can be "fixed" in this way within an hour. The afternoon is utilized in making themselves "solid" with the regular guests over the bar and in watching the register for guests assigned to the "fixed" rooms. When every one has gone to bed one thief resumes his watch and "pipes off" the watchman while his confederate works the rooms. This is done in short order and the thieves are away by daylight.—*Philadelphia Times.*

He Left.

Very senseless reasons are frequently given by employes for throwing up their positions, says a Washington paper, but a clerk in one of the departments resigned his position the other day, and gave the most foolish reason for his action which any brain, disordered or otherwise, could conceive of.

"You have resigned your place in Gen. Blank's office, I see. Boy, now what are you going to do?" asked the reporter of the ex-clerk, meeting him one morning.

"Oh, I don't know, yet. I haven't any place just now."

"But what did you resign for, if you can't afford to be idle?"

"I know I can't afford to be idle," replied the clerk, sadly; "but it seemed to me that I could do nothing else. I had to have a little money; I could not get it, and so I resigned my clerkship that I might be paid off."

"How often were you paid off?"

"Twice a month."

"So you didn't get much money when you were last paid?"

"No, it was not much. Oh, I see now that I made a mistake," said the young man, and he walked on, appearing to be in deep meditation, probably for the first time in his life.

How the Baby Came.

In the small hours of the morning Mr. Blank's front door bell rang violently. The worthy citizen went to the door, where he found his man Michael in a troubled state of mind. Mike said he had that night been blessed with an addition to his family; that the doctor called in attendance had demanded immediate payment for his services. Having no money in the house he had called upon Mr. Blank's behalf for some. Michael immediately inquired what he wanted, and with profuse apologies for calling at such an unreasonable hour, departed. The next morning Mr. Blank's daughters, who had heard the bell ring, asked who it was that had called so late, and they were informed of the circumstances. "Poor little thing!" sympathetically exclaimed a bright little miss of twelve summers; "it came C. O. D., didn't it?"

A Scholarly Lawyer.

An anecdote told by Mr. Choate to a friend illustrates his fondness for the ancient languages. "You to allude to a visit I once received from Mr. Webster, when I was Senator at Washington, endeavoring to impose upon the people of this Commonwealth that I was an eminent statesman. I saw Mr. Webster's wonderful black eyes peering over my books, as if in search, and asked him what he would please to have. He turned to me with one of his smiles, such as never transfigured the face of any other man or of any woman, and said:

"'Mr. Choate, Brother Choate, then you are [illegible] to your [illegible] in Washington [illegible]—revised editions of the Greek Testament, but not a copy of the Constitution.'"

A New Cure.

A numbered cure for old moss have been suggested. One, a physician, recommends vaseline and precipitated sulphur as a local application; another suggests that a good strong lemon might effectually and permanently cure the trouble, while another who signs himself "Slap-stick," suggests the remedy that will probably be used in the great majority of cases, viz., "Keep on drinking and it will turn purple."

Gratefulness.

To be grateful for benefits received is the duty of honest men; one of the sins that most offendeth God is ingratitude.

Bernard Murphy, Champion Youth Walker of Australia, says to the Melbourne Sportsman: "On Monday, previous to the match with Ormes, of Sidney, I was attacked with the 'stitch.' I could not walk another yard, and gave up all hopes of winning. I was advised to try St. Jacobs Oil. I did so, rubbing a little on my side. I have not been troubled since, and won my match."

Jokes are like eggs. They can never be too fresh.

"She tried her prentice hand on man,
And when she turned the job she ran."

"What is woman's work?" asked a fair damsel of a crusty old bachelor. He did not know, so she said, W. O. man, double you O man. But a woman feel's worth little if disease has invaded her system, and is daily sapping her strength. For all female weakness, Dr. R. V. Pierce's "Favorite prescription" stands unrivaled. It cures the complaint and builds up the system. Send two letter stamps for pamphlet to World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

A voice from the deep—Coal miners asking for more pay.

Many ladies who for years had scarcely ever enjoyed the luxury of feeling well have been so renovated by the use of Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound that they have triumphed over the ills flesh is said to be heir to, and life has been crowned with added charms and fresher beauty.

"Down the chute" is a new phrase for being sent to jail.

Pierce's "Pleasant Purgative Pellets." Positively Popular; Provoke Praise; Prove Priceless; Peculiarly Prompt; Perceptibly Potent; Producing Permanent Profit; Precluding Pimples and Pustules; Promoting Purity and Peace. Purchase Price; Petty, Pharmacists. Patronizing Pierce Procure Plenty.

An exchange tells of a "wideawake policeman." Had too much dinner, poor fellow.

Use the great specific for "cold in head" and catarrh—Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy.

There is hope for dudes. A French scientist claims to manufacture artificial brains.

"Rough on Pain"

Cures colic, cramps, diarrhœa; externally for for aches, pains, sprains. Man or beast. 25 & 50c.

Frazer Axle Grease.

Use the Frazer Axle Grease, 1s the best in the world—will wear two as long as any other. Ask your dealer for it, and take no other.

Only Two Bottles. Messrs. Johnston, Holloway & Co., wholesale druggists of Philadelphia, Pa., report that some time ago a gentleman handed them a dollar, with a request to send a good catarrh cure to two army officers in Arizona. Recently the same gentleman told them that both of the officers and the wife of a well-known U. S. A. General had been cured of Catarrh by the two bottles of Ely's Cream Balm. Not a liquid or snuff. Price 50 cents.

Mothers.

If you are failing; broken, worn out and nervous, use "Wells' Health Renewer." $1. Druggists.

For Dyspepsia, Indigestion, depression of spirits and general debility in their various forms, also as a preventive against fever and ague and other intermittent fevers, the "Ferro-Phosphorated Elixir of Calisaya," made by Caswell, Hazard & Co., New York, and sold by all Druggists, is the best tonic; and for patients recovering from fever or other sickness it has no equal.

"Benson's Aromatic Alum Sulphur Soap," beautifies and softens Face and hands, heals and cures all skin diseases for sure. 25 cents by "Druggist" or by mail. Wm. Dreydoppel, Philadelphia, Pa.

"Rough on Coughs."

Ask for "Rough on Coughs," for Coughs, Colds, Sore Throat, Hoarseness. Troches, 15c. Liquid, 25c.

Bald Heads,

when you have tried everything else and failed try our Caristine and be happy; it will prove its merits. One dollar a bottle, and sold by all druggists.

Thin People

"Wells' Health Renewer" restores health and vigor, cures dyspepsia, sexual debility. $1.

Important.

When you visit or leave New York city, save baggage expressage and [illegible] at the Grand Union Hotel, [illegible] Depot. [illegible] rest of cost million dollars, $1 and upward per day. European plan. Elevator, Restaurant supplied with the best. Horse cars, stages and elevated railroad to all depots. Families can live better for less money at the Grand Union Hotel than at any other first-class hotel in the city.

Can the tailor's nag be properly called a clothes horse?

SAMPLE OF ADVERTISEMENTS

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