FOR THE FARM AND HOME.

Applying Wood Ashes.

E. P. Root, of Monroe County, N. Y., says in the New York *Tribune*: On lands, usually heavy and tenacious, unless deficient in potash is less benefited by wood ashes, for the tendency is to make it more compact; sandy and gravelly soils, usually loose and friable and at the same time deficient in potash, are directly benefited by ashes. The light soils are usually too loose for either grass or the small grains, and the effect of ashes is to solidify as well as to supply the want of mineral plant food. The grass crop is much helped by ashes, especially on dried land, and in ordinary cases a greater profit will be derived from a given quantity applied to meadow or pasture than when used for grain growing. Moreover, the ashes are very lasting. But I think nowhere else will they pay better than for potatoes, the plant being a rank feeder on potash. I have seen in the practice of applying wood ashes, one part, mixed with phosphate, two parts, to the potato land soon after planting, or as soon as the germ begins to break the ground, putting a large handful on each hill. I have also applied gypsum, ashes, and salt, mixed in about equal portions by weight, in the hill when covering the seed, which produced the finest and cleanest tubers I ever raised, and in great yield. And I regard this treatment as a sure remedy for scabby potatoes, so common in many farms.

Watch the Stock.

Keep a close watch of the stock, and be quick to notice if any of them are thriving. The good farmer should be able to tell at a glance when any of his stock are not doing well. A dull eye, a staring coat, an unusual position in standing or lying, a sluggish appearance, a loss of appetite, or an appetite for unnatural substances—any of these or generally symptoms of something wrong—and it is not often that we to the extent commence measures of the farm stock without one or more of these evidences of ill health, or at least of the existing condition which predisposes to disease having been manifested the day or days previous. Taken in time, some simple remedy, with a little attention and nursing, may be worth more effect than can be done by the best veterinary surgeon a few days later. It is worth while to separate each sickly animal at once from the herd, to prevent the spread of the disease, and to prevent the healthier and stronger animals, in their weakened condition, from being exposed to the influence of the sick. This is more important with the sheep than with food, and it is also of the greatest importance in the matter of the preparation of food. A farmer lost a week ago with the disease, in the midst of plenty, simply because he had crowded away from the troughs some of the calf, turned loose with the others, to be frequently attacked by them even as well animals which were fed and as said to be in the stock.

Farmers as Gardeners.

The farmers [illegible] Morning Star [illegible] supplied with [illegible] but city residents. [illegible] quarter of the farm [illegible] anything farmers on the [illegible] produce [illegible] and some [illegible] plants and [illegible] wanting. [illegible] upon to supply the produce that is wanted, and perhaps [illegible] be raised in the [illegible] second crop. What a [illegible] is this for those who are [illegible] the choicest [illegible] common kind [illegible] great in demand [illegible] avoided the necessary [illegible] to give to [illegible] particular [illegible] timely, to [illegible] that if we depend [illegible] supply for country [illegible] this quite [illegible] There are [illegible] of things and [illegible] physical and [illegible] families. [illegible] greater return [illegible] expenditures that they [illegible] inquire into the [illegible] we shall find, in many [illegible] importance [illegible] and the want of [illegible] labor and attention [illegible] what different from that of the [illegible] crops, and also the garden [illegible] to some extent, with the [illegible] when it is not properly [illegible] managed, as for the most part it [illegible] be, so far because little of [illegible] interest in the performance of the [illegible] work. And for the purpose [illegible] now ask our country and village [illegible] who are directly interested to give the necessary thought for the preparation of a good garden, at this season of comparative rest. What shall the garden consist of? How and when shall it be prepared? Who shall have the direct supervision of it? These and other questions can be considered and decided upon, and when the time of action comes there need be no delay.

Rasping and Greasing Horses' Hoofs.

The horse is one of the most strictly perfect of Nature's works, viewed physically; and he occupies besides an exalted position among animals as to his intelligent and moral qualities. It is, therefore, most painful to see how, under the handling of intelligent (?) man, he is maltreated and even abused. He submits his neck to the yoke unmurmuringly; he accepts the iron-plating of his feet; and he allows the galling chain upon the movements of his head, and gives man his best service, even to the death. The ignorant smith has his views as to what should be the shape of his feet. So he cuts and rasps, and forms them to suit himself. He has an idea that the hoof is made on purpose for him to rasp and shoe, and exercise all the tools of his trade upon. So he makes a shoe and fits the hoof to it; he removes the natural polished exterior, which by its tough elasticity defends the tender parts from injury, is nearly impervious to water, and permits a little evaporation of internal moisture, by which it is kept normally pliable and vitalized to the very surface. He rounds and smooths off the new surface, leaves it in a condition to allow the moisture of the hoof to pass off rapidly, and the hoof to dry and crack, and thus he recommends the application of tar and grease and lamp black, as if he was trying to render an old boot pliable and presentable. The greasing may be well enough, better than nothing—after the mischief is done. But why do sensible housewives allow the evil which their precipitate orders, if not their more intemperate words, would prevent?

—*Prairie Farmer.*

Useful Insects.

In an excellent article on insects, published in the proceedings of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario, the author says that insect-eating birds are useful helpers to the cultivator, although not as important as insect friends. The lady-bird, dragon-fly, the mole and the mosquito, the one especially to the other, and being at all discriminating in this respect in particular. He remarks: "Birds appear to be comparatively little to be relied on to destroy the cut-worm, because, being on the ground and the moth, they are [illegible] the moth, the spring of [illegible] The following method is recommended. The [illegible] are [illegible] Vessels made of Mexico [illegible] and [illegible] Fry as nearly as [illegible] the night. They effect a [illegible] and other insects [illegible] and [illegible] the night. The moth [illegible] the [illegible] Very [illegible] the [illegible] Wilford [illegible] Fry [illegible] Wilford [illegible] Fry [illegible] Wilford [illegible] Fry