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"Southern Little Gardens" in July

(Concluded from page 7, column 2)

won't work if any one is with you) and look at the difference in leaves, at their infinite variety, in shape and color and texture. If God takes all that trouble to create leaves that perish so soon, don't you know that we are safe with Him?

* * *

After all my mourning over the dead figs, the other morning when I went for a final outburst of grief, there they were sprouting up as hard and fast as they could. And that reminds me: so many people have written about dried figs that in my next letter to The Progressive Farmer recipes will be given for drying them. I am trying now to find out the Italian way, as I am not sure if it is really better than ours, or if when one is eating them over in that land of romance, one's mind is so taken up with cathedrals and palaces and works of art and ruins and scenery that imagination clothes even the figs with undeserved glory. But by the time to dry figs, the recipe will be ready; so, will the writers of all the letters be good enough to take this for their answer and possess their souls in patience? Maybe they would feel more like it if I told them I got up at five o'clock this morning to have this letter written and out of the way before the day's real work began. The rains after the dry winds have made such a lot of heavy rushing work for gardeners as well as farmers, that one recalls Cecil Rhodes' "despairing remark—"So much to do—so little time in which to do it!" The small difference that he was building a civilized empire out of a continent of Zululand and Kaffirs and Matabeles and I am confining my energies to four acres, does not alter the principle of the thing.

* * *

The witloof chicory is growing so vigorously, that it's about to push over the garden fence. There are two long rows of it thriving like Jack's bean stalk and choking out every weed in sight. I am tremendously interested in its possibilities and if it's a failure, at least I'll have had a good time experimenting. What's the pleasure of living if you're going to do the same thing every day for three hundred and sixty-five days in the year of each one of your allotted three score years and ten? And a garden can furnish more interesting surprises than Paris. I've tried both, and give me a garden every time for thrills. As it's the first time with chickory I've been reading up on it and the account says the leaves can be cooked like spinach if put through two waters to take out the bitter taste. Next fall when the vegetable supply gets slack it will be tried as a spinach substitute.

* * *

Isn't it odd how you will go for years, hearing and reading nothing of a certain thing, and then, when your attention is once drawn to it, you will hear and see and read of it at every turn. At one of the Northern hotels where I often stop, the same German waiter has looked after me for years. There are Germans and Germans you know, and this is one of the best ones. He was telling me how hard it was in that big city to save money and yet give his children enough nourishing food, and closed his lament by saying, "In Germany I once could give them a nutritious meal for five cents. Here five cents buys nothing." "But what sort of meal was it for five cents?" I asked, thinking of potatoes, Germany's staple, corn, wheat, beans; then dismissing them all from the five cent class, "Chickory," he answered. "You select nice crisp leaves, chop a bit of onion over it, cut two slices of bacon into small pieces and fry, then pour boiling hot over the chickory, add a little vinegar, and there is your family's good meal for five cents!"

And the way he told it made it sound so good that I really left that table feeling injured because no one had ever given me a five-cent supper of chickory!

MRS. LINDSAY PATTERSON.
Winston-Salem, N. C.

How to Get Rich Lands

(Concluded from page 8, column 4)

should be harvested or plowed under, or if harvested, whether they should be sold or fed to livestock, but to merely call attention to the quantity, value and importance of the residue of the corn crop after the grain is removed in maintaining soil fertility. With every crop of 25 bushels of oats there is also produced around 1,200 pounds of straw, or with 15 bushels of wheat there is also produced around 1,200 to 1,500 pounds of straw.

These are often burned in grain-growing sections, but not often are they burned in the South, where the small amount of grains produced makes their straws scarce and of a high value for feed and bedding; but their value for supplying humus and plant foods is not appreciated as

benefits derived from the period of pasturing are due to the decay of the roots, and sod or stubble of the pasture plants and from the checking of washing (erosion) and leaching rather than from the addition of plant foods. In other words, the humus-forming material or the decay of the organic matter left in and on the soil supply available plant foods, cause more of supplies already in the soil to become available and enable the soil to hold more moisture for the use of growing crops.

The crop residues or remains in any crop rotation or system of farming are of much greater importance than Southern farmers have seemed to recognize. In fact, if agriculture is to be put on a permanent and sound economic basis, crop residues, with lime, phosphorus, and sometimes potassium added, must be the chief means of maintaining soil fertility. Crops suitable for marketing or for feed are usually worth more for these purposes than for fertilizer direct. In other words, the feed value of a crop, plus the residues which may be saved and returned to the soil, are generally worth more than the fertilizer and

PLANT EVERY IDLE ACRE IN PEAS; BEST PREPARATION FOR WHEAT

ONE thing the farmer can do to increase the food supply for man and beast is to plant peas.

I say "plant", because peas are too scarce and high-priced to sow broadcast. One bushel of peas will plant four or five acres. Now is the urgent time to begin to prepare for a big grain crop next year, especially wheat. All idle land should be broken now and planted to peas. By planting in rows and using a little phosphate and cultivating you get a better yield of peas than by any other method.

If you have no idle land, a good plan is to plant peas on the wheat and oat stubble. If you have not time to break the land, run off the rows with a plow and follow by planting the peas. You can break between the rows and cultivate when the rush of farm work is over. Even if the peas should not have time to mature, it will pay. Green peas make an excellent food for the table, and there is nothing better for poultry and young pigs. The peas will come off by frost and you then have a most excellent preparation for a wheat crop.

Seed wheat next fall will be too high and valuable to waste. What we should do is to grow larger yields per acre and one way is to plant peas as I have suggested.—R. W. Scott, Haw River, N. C.

shown by the manner in which the stable manure is handled.

How Grazing Crops Help in the Rotation

BUT perhaps the most important crop residues or remains are the stubbles, sods and roots of certain crops. These form one of the chief values of crop rotations and especially of pasturing in the rotation. In other words, the character of the crop remains is an important matter in determining the value of any rotation, especially on lands having a tendency to wash and leach excessively.

The deep penetrating roots of many legumes, and the tremendous number of small shallow-growing roots of many other plants, with the thick stubbles of broadcast crops, are important crop residues, which are of great value in maintaining soil fertility. It is because of these facts that in any rotation looking to soil building these fibrous rooted broadcast crops or legumes, or pasture crops, should be alternated with clean cultured row crops like cotton, corn, tobacco, etc.

Pasture crops, especially those forming sods, are of the greatest value in maintaining soil fertility, but this is not, as frequently supposed, because the soil is actually made richer in plant foods. In fact, unless the pasture plants be largely legumes the supplies of all plant foods must at least become less to the extent to which they are carried off in the bodies or products of the livestock. But although no plant foods may be added, the increased production of crops following a period in pasture is well known. The

humus value of the crop when turned under, in any well planned crop rotation or under any economic system of farm management.

Don't "Overcrop" the Teacher

ANY farmer knows what the result will be when he attempts to cultivate too large an acreage. It merely means grassy crops to contend with and a much lighter yield at harvest time, even if he keeps out of bankruptcy.

It is the same way with a public school where there is a large number of pupils to look after of all ages and grades, and only one mite of a teacher. She is just as much overworked as a one-horse farmer who attempts to cultivate a two-horse crop. The teacher simply "goes through the motion" of hearing lessons as rapidly as possible, because she doesn't have the time to explain any portion of the lesson or to encourage her pupils in any way whatever. My idea is that the South needs longer school terms and better school facilities, and we should have this regardless of expense, effort or time. It may not be a well known fact, (nevertheless it is true), but portions of the South and East are doing less for educational advantages than any other section of the United States. This ought not so to be.

WM. H. H.
Prince George, Va.

HIS PREFERENCE

Winkley gazed at the new triplets with fatherly pride, but not a little apprehension in his eye, nevertheless.

"What are you thinking, dear?" asked Mrs. Winkley, softly.

"Nothing, dear, nothing," he said, falteringly, "only don't you think that it would be wiser for us hereafter to build up our little family on the installment plan?"

Harper's Weekly.