

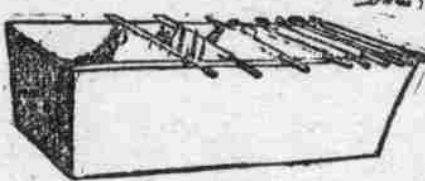
Southern Agricultural Topics.

Modern Methods That Are Helpful to Farmer, Fruit Grower and Stockman.

A Scheme For Testing Seeds.

For the ordinary planter the well-known "dinner plate" tester, made with two soup or dinner plates and one or more moist strips of sterilized cotton goods, preferably cotton flannel, will be found to answer all purposes. The cotton strips are sterilized in boiling water to destroy spores of molds and other fungi present, folded twice upon themselves and placed in one of the plates. The seeds are now laid between the folds. For testing several varieties at once, of cloth so as not to touch each other, and the second plate is inverted over the first, this forming a moist, aerated and more or less sterile chamber. The cotton strips must be kept well moistened, but not saturated, preferably with water that has been sterilized by boiling, and allowed to cool before using. Two or three lots of seeds may be tested in the generator at one time, but each should be continued in a separate cotton strip and numbered to avoid error.

When, however, it is desirable to make several germinating tests at one time or when many varieties are to be tested, instead of duplicating the plate germinators already described the writer found the following germinator, suggested by Dr. Volney Spaulding, formerly of the University of Michigan, to be superior: A deep granite bread pan six or eight inches wide was obtained in which was kept about one-fourth inch of water. Cotton flannel strips of any convenient length, two or three yards, and of the width of the pan, were tucked crosswise at intervals of five inches. Short galvanized wires about an inch longer than the width of the pan were inserted through



Pan Germinator.

these tucks and gathered together, thus forming the cotton strips into numerous folds or loops which were suspended in the pan above the water by means of the supporting wires. The ends of the strips being left sufficiently long to touch the water in the pan, the entire piece of cloth composing the loops, in which the seeds are placed, is kept uniformly moist.

The cloth should be moistened before beginning the experiment and, it is needless to add, sterilized.

A definite number of seeds taken as they come from an average sample are counted out for each germination. For seeds in rather small lots, as garden seeds, fifty to a hundred will answer, while for the cereals, grasses, clover and others used in extensive cultural operations about 200 should be used and the tests duplicated when any doubt exists about the results. The tests should be examined from day to day and the sprouted ones removed and counted, the number being recorded on a sheet of paper.

The length of time required for germination is dependent upon several factors, chief of which are moisture, temperature, vitality and varietal differences, six to ten days being sufficient for most kinds. When tests are made during the winter or early spring months, at which time it is usually most convenient, the germination should be conducted in a moderately warm room so that the temperature will not fall below fifty degrees F. at night and remain between seventy and eighty degrees F. during the day. In the case of alfalfa and certain other of the clover family a small percentage of the seeds will remain apparently sound at the close of the germination test. Allowance is usually made for these, one-third being counted as viable—i. e., capable of growth. Cauliflower, cabbage, turnip and beet seeds of poor stock—i. e., run out—are just as viable as those of good stock. The only means of remedying this defect is to use selected home grown seeds or to buy the best stock of reliable seed houses.—J. J. Thornber, in New York Witness.

To Keep Disease Out of Brood.

Barring accident, or destruction by force, nature intended every little chicken hatched to live and grow. There is no reason why we should assume that a certain per cent. of each brood shall sicken and die. It would not be so, if we knew nature's way, and managed them altogether naturally. It is not so with the young of the wild birds or the wild fowl; they live in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred; and yet, they are more exposed to the elements than any brood of young chickens. They are as na-

ture placed them, and thence, with a natural mother, and natural food, they thrive.

And now, with these thoughts in mind, and in looking back over the past, and gathering together the data—whether of success or failure, we can see in such a review, that our best luck, as it is termed, or, our greater success, has been attained when we kept most in line with nature in the feeding and the care of our young chickens. And, in this vista of the past, we see standing out like mile posts to our ignorant management, the long series of broods, and the hundreds and hundreds of little down innocents that were sacrificed to warm, soft, sloppy mixed foods. We can recall the dysentery and the other forms of bowel trouble that carried them off, until from a brood of ten to fifteen, we would raise only two or three.

This was killing chickens with kindness, coupled with inexperience. We cooked for them, and we made hot mashies, and we succeeded in making some of them sick, and the disease spread and we lost them by the tens and scores—and nature outraged. And then we tried another way, and it was a more natural way. It was less troublesome and more expeditious. We stopped feeding soft mashies, and resorted to cracked grain, small seeds, and coarse dry meal, and we put this sort of food where the chickens had to work to get it out. Now, this is an old story—this "scratching for a living"—it is almost threadbare, you know, and yet it is really the basis for keeping the chicks healthy—of keeping disease out of the brood. For, the little chick that has nothing but dry food to eat, and has to scratch it out of litter, or trash—the chick that has to wander about and pry in here and there for the stray insect or worm—this is the healthy chicken. The hen that scratches with her chickens—that dusts and wallows with them, is the healthy hen, and the hen with the healthy brood. That's the key to the thought. We need to keep close to nature in raising the chickens, to have good success.

Practically, and to a definite plan—put each hen in a small run, with a coop to herself, so as to individualize her and her particular little family. Then feed her and her chicks dry food only; small seeds, cracked grain, oat meal, a little rye, corn meal, and let them work it out of a litter which has a sandy, gravelly base. This is a natural combination, and it will not be taken up at a gulp, but the mixture will be worked out gradually and in different parts at different times. This will take the greater part of the day and it will be all the better for it. It will result in keen-eyed, alert, active and fast-growing chicks, and a healthy, active mother. It will keep off disease, and it will lead to a greater per cent. of matured chickens per brood than any other system. It's a good plan to have and to follow early in the season, and it is equally practicable and available for best results all summer and far into the fall. In fact, by keeping the hot mashies from our little chicks, and in working them as suggested, we may raise from thirty to fifty per cent. more than under the old system of coddling, and stuffing with mixtures that are more or less injurious in their effects.—By H. B. Geer.

A Word to the Wise.

With the cotton crop 2,000,000 bales short of the previous year, cotton is selling at only nine cents.

Suppose the crop had been a full one—13,000,000 bales instead of 11,000,000—would not cotton to-day be seven cents?

Suppose, moreover, we raise another bumper crop this year—where will prices go next fall?

And what is going to become of the all-cotton farmer who has his smoke-house and corn-crib in the West if the crash comes?

Centuries ago a wise man said: "The prudent man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself, but the simple pass on and are punished."

Will you play the part of the prudent man or the simpleton?—Progressive Farmer.

Fertilizer For Peanuts.

Peanuts, like cowpeas, can get nitrogen from the air, and do not need much, if any, nitrogen. But it will be well to give a little nitrate of soda for a start. Then for peanuts I would make the ton 1500 pounds of acid phosphate, 100 pounds of nitrate of soda and 400 pounds of sulphate of potash. In the 1500 pounds of acid phosphate you will get about 600 pounds of plaster, which many peanut growers think essential to the crop. Of this ton I would use 500 pounds per acre for peanuts.—W. F. Massey.

Champion Pauper Dead.

The champion pauper died at Utica, N. Y., after being a public charge for eighty-five years. Hezekiah Monk was born in the Herkimer county poor house eighty-five years ago, spent all his days there and died in that institution.

One should choose a wife with the ears, rather than with the eyes.—Spanish.

A TEXAS CLERGYMAN

Speaks Out For the Benefit of Suffering Thousands.

Rev. G. M. Gray, Baptist clergyman, of Whitesboro, Tex., says: "Four years ago I suffered misery with lumbago. Every movement was one of pain. Doan's Kidney Pills removed the whole difficulty after only a short time. Although I do not like to have my name used publicly, I make an exception in this case, so that other sufferers from kidney trouble may profit by my experience."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

TOO BUSY.
"Do you keep a cow since you've got into your suburban home?"
"No. It's all I can do to keep my neighbors' chickens."—Chicago Record-Herald.

\$100 Reward, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c.

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Geraldine—Do you expect me to marry a photograph?—New York Press.

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Whether from colds, heat, stomach or nervous troubles. No Acetanilid or dangerous drugs. It's liquid and acts immediately. Trial bottle 10c. Regular sizes 25c. and 50c., at all druggists.

The things that we oughtn't to do seem to be the only ones that makes life worth living.—New York Press.

To Drive Out Malaria and Build Up the System

Take the Old Standard GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC. You know what you are taking. The formula is plainly printed on every bottle, showing it is simply Quinine and Iron in a tasteless form, and the most effectual form. For grown people and children, 50c.

Leap year has not made an appreciable reduction in the sale of bachelor buttons.—Atlanta Journal.

The General Demand

of the Well-Informed of the World has always been for a simple, pleasant and efficient liquid laxative remedy of known value; a laxative which physicians could sanction for family use because its component parts are known to them to be wholesome and truly beneficial in effect, acceptable to the system and gentle, yet prompt, in action.

In supplying that demand with its excellent combination of Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna, the California Fig Syrup Co. proceeds along ethical lines and relies on the merits of the laxative for its remarkable success.

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Everybody should know how simple and easy it is to avoid all uncertainty in buying paint materials. There are many so-called white leads on the market, which contain chalk, zinc, barytes, and other cheap adulterants. Unless the property owner takes advantage of the simple means of protection afforded him by reliable white lead manufacturers, he runs great risk of getting an inferior and adulterated white lead.

It is to protect the paint-buyer against fraud and adulteration that National Lead Company, the largest makers of genuine Pure White Lead, place their famous "Dutch Boy Painter" trademark on every keg of their product, an absolute guarantee of its purity and quality. Anyone who wants to make a practical test of white lead, and who wants a valuable free book about painting, should address National Lead Company, Woodbridge Bldg., New York, and ask for test equipment.

The campaign begins when the money begins to rattle in the tin cup.

THREE CURES OF ECZEMA.

Woman Tells of Her Brother's Terrible Suffering—Her Grandchild and Another Baby also Cured—Cuticura Proved Invaluable.

"My brother had eczema three different summers. Each summer it came out between his shoulders and down his back, and he said his suffering was terrible. When it came on the third summer, he bought a box of Cuticura Ointment and gave it a faithful trial. Soon he began to feel better and he cured himself entirely of eczema with Cuticura. A lady in Indiana heard of how my daughter, Mrs. Miller, had cured her little son of terrible eczema by the Cuticura Remedies. This lady's little one had the eczema so badly that they thought they would lose it. She used Cuticura Remedies and they cured her child entirely, and the disease never came back. Mrs. Sarah E. Lusk, Coldwater, Mich., Aug. 15 and Sept. 2, 1907."

Atlantic City is one place where they have no Sherlock Holmes.

ECZEMA CURED.

J. R. Maxwell, Atlanta, Ga., says: "I suffered acutely with a severe case of eczema. Tried six different remedies and was in despair, when a neighbor told me to try Euphrasia's Terebrina. After using \$3 worth of your Terebrina and soap I am completely cured. I cannot say too much in its praise." Terebrina at druggists or by mail 50c. Soap 25c. J. T. Saurbrunn, Dept. A, Savannah, Ga.

The ash borrows poison from the viper.—Latin.

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Monthly Pains, Backache, Nervousness, and Headache. It's Liquid. Effects immediately. Prescribed by physicians with best results. 10c., 25c., and 50c., at drug stores.

BROWNING IN KANSAS.

"We want you to say a few words about Browning."

"Well, ladies," responded Mrs. Homebuddy, diffidently, "for ples and other pastry I recommend a hot oven; for beans, a slow fire."—Kansas City Journal.

He Would Arbitrate.

The German Emperor hints that he would like to have his salary as King of Prussia increased; but there seems to be no probability that he will go on a strike in case his demand is refused.—Chicago Record-Herald.

TRUE PATRIOTISM.

"Johnny, what's a patriot?"
"A boy who'd radder miss see'n' de game dan go in on a ball knocked over de fence by de visitin' team."—Kansas City Journal.

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pains, which got so bad I could hardly walk and laid in bed most of the time. I was also irregular and had the headache. Finally I began to take Cardui, and found it to do all that you recommend it for. Now I am better, don't have the headache like I used to, and am a different person." Try Cardui. Sold everywhere.



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