

FARM AND GARDEN.

RHUBARB, OR PIE-PLANT.—A row of Rhubarb may well occupy the north side of the garden that is bounded by a tight board fence.

If new currant bushes are to be set, let them be four feet apart. If old bushes were not pruned last fall do it at once, before the leaves start.

At a recent talk on the strawberry at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Mr. C. M. Hovey said that "the pump and manure are the most important items."

In sowing peas for a very early crop the rows should run east and west, but for the main crops north and south.

There is nothing better for potatoes than wood-ashes. They should be spread on the ploughed ground and harrowed in, or they may be sown just before planting or after it.

The Beet is first in order, and is one of the most valuable, as well as oldest, vegetables of the garden. Beets require rich soil, kept free from weeds.

Lettuce is a most healthful salad; and a kitchen-garden is not complete without it. By early and successive sowings, at intervals of a week, it may be gathered fresh and crisp as long as desired.

A correspondent of the Rural New Yorker writes: "Tell your readers to put one pint of salt and one pint of soft soap (it ought to be farmer's soap) to ten gallons of water, and use it on currants and gooseberries. I'll warrant them a full crop. Put plenty of ashes—coal or wood—around the roots to increase the size of the berries."

CONCERNING FERTILIZERS.—A good fertilizer for house plants is a small teacupful of Peruvian guano dissolved in a pailful of water, and applied to the soil once or twice a week. Success with house plants depends largely upon keeping them clean and free from dust.

A Cape Cod man owns 100 acres of land, some of which was so poor that it yielded nothing but poverty weed. In 1858 he began planting pine seed, planting more or less for ten years. Now he has about 18 acres of quite valuable woodland that was worthless before being thus planted.

The Boston Journal of Chemistry recommends as a cheap and reliable substitute for commercial fertilizers such as superphosphates, etc., the following combination, viz.:—"Take one barrel of pure raw, finely ground bones and one barrel of the best wood ashes, mix them on a floor, and add gradually three pailfuls of water, mixing thoroughly with the hoe.

Use in small quantities in about the same manner as the superphosphates. If the ashes cannot be procured dissolve twelve pounds of potash in ten gallons of hot water, and with this solution saturate the bone flour thoroughly; a barrel of dry peat or good loam, without stone, may be added. The mixture should not be too sticky, neither too moist nor too dry.

SCIENCE.

A new method of mining coal has been invented and successfully carried into practice, which promises to effect a considerable saving. The operation consists in drilling shot-holes in the roof of the coal into which cartridges of specially prepared limestone are introduced.

EFFECT OF SUNLIGHT ON FLOUR.—

It frequently happens that wheat or rye flour, in spite of the greatest care in baking, yields an inferior loaf, and the failure is commonly attributed to adulteration; but when submitted to investigation neither microscopic nor chemical tests reveal any adulteration. Such flour is returned to the miller or dealer as unfit for use.

MOUNT ETNA is in eruption, pouring out from the central crater a stream of lava. Vesuvius is in its usual passive state, although there is always a subterranean stream of lava flowing. Visitors are conducted by guides to the spot where the liquid fire may be seen through an aperture in the solid crust of lava. The column of smoke constantly ascends, and at intervals at night there is a brilliant light.

Miss Housa, of Paris, Ill., has trance-like sleeps during which, as she and her friends believe, she visits heaven. She gives what purport to be accurate, and certainly are elaborate, reports of what she sees in these celestial trips. It is claimed, too, that she describes persons who died long ago, and about whom she can of herself know nothing.

Sir William Thomson follows Dr. Thomas Reid in ascribing to man six senses instead of five, namely, the sense of force, of heat, of sound, of light, of taste, and of smell.

It is now proposed to make nails from Bessemer steel. It is claimed that when made at half the weight of iron, the nail is stiff enough to be driven into the hardest wood, and tough enough to clinch.

The Postal Telegraph Company's wire now reaches from New York to Chicago, which is distant one thousand miles, and we are informed that telephonic communication has been carried on for some days between New York and Chicago: the transaction of business over the line by this means being an every day occurrence.

THE HOUSE.

CLEANING CARPETS AND RUGS.—Sometimes carpets and rugs become badly spotted, and it does not seem advisable to take them up. The following method will then be found excellent: Rub a piece of hard soap upon every spot of grease; then take a hard scouring brush and dip it into a large basin of hot water, in which two tablespoonfuls of water of ammonia have been stirred, or a piece of carbonate of ammonia has been dissolved.

TO CLEAN OIL-CLOTHS.—To ruin them—clean them with hot water or soap suds, and leave them half-wiped, and they will look very bright while wet, and very dingy and dirty when dry, and soon crack and peel off.

To swell the currants for cakes, after they are picked, pour boiling water over them, and let them stand, covered over with a plate for two minutes, drain away the water, throw the currants on a cloth to dry them, and do not use until they are cool. Or, after being picked and washed, put them on a dish in a cool oven with the doors open; turn about occasionally.

BREAD STEAKS.—Add a little milk, pepper, salt, and spice to an egg and beat well together. Cut some slices of bread of even size and shape, and fry a light brown in butter or oil. Drain on paper, pile on a dish, and serve with tomato sauce.

APPLE CUSTARD.—A nice apple custard is made of one pint of apple sauce, one pint of sweet milk, and three eggs. Flavor and sweeten to taste. To be baked with an under crust.

CLEANING BLACK SILK.—One of the things "not generally known," at least in this country, is the Parisian method of cleaning black silk; the modus operandi is very simple, and results infinitely superior to that achieved in any other manner. The silk must be thoroughly brushed and wiped with a cloth, then laid flat on a board or table, and well sponged with hot coffee, thoroughly free from sediment by being strained through muslin.

The coffee removes every particle of grease, and restores the brilliancy of silk without imparting to it either the shiny appearance or crackly and papery stiffness obtained by beer, or, indeed, any other liquid. The silk really appears thickened by the process, and this good effect is permanent. Our readers who will experiment on an apron or cravat will never again try any other method.

VARIETIES.

The hair of a girl employed in an Eastern cotton-mill was caught in the machinery, torn off her head, and ground into bits. But the girl didn't mind it much. She kept right on at her work, simply remarking that it only cost \$4, anyhow. This is one of the advantages of art over nature.—Norristown Herald.

"Woman's rights!" exclaimed a certain benedict when the subject was broached. "What more rights do they want? My wife bosses me; our daughters boss us both, and the servant girl bosses the whole family. It's time the men were allowed some rights."

"Making a call the other day," writes a fair correspondent, "I casually opened a Bible on the drawing-room table while waiting for my friend. There was a folded piece of paper inside, and it was marked—I couldn't help seeing it.—'Recipe for punches.' My friend entered at that moment and I handed it to her. 'Why, where in the world did you get that?' she asked; 'I've been looking for it this six months!'"

A landlady advertises that she has "a fine airy, well furnished bed room for a gentleman twelve feet square," another has a cheap and desirable suite of rooms for a respectable family in good repair; still another has "a hall bed room for a single woman 8x12."

POPULARITY.—Why they are popular. The reason that National Pills are so universally popular is because they are certain in their action, mild and painless in their operation, and never leave the bowels constipated. They are sugar-coated and contain no mineral poison.

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The Rev. FRANCIS B. HARLOWE, writing from Atlanta, Ga., says: "For some years past I have been subject to constipation, from which, in spite of the use of medicines of various kinds, I suffered increasing inconvenience, until some months ago I began taking AYER'S PILLS. They have entirely corrected the constipation, and have vastly improved my general health."

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