

GOOD SHOES.

Rules Which Will Enable You to Buy Them Every Time.

The boot that is well fitted to the foot is well made. There are two kinds of boots. The ready-made boot and the boot that is made to order.

Shown in the shop windows are shoes all of the same shape, yet no two persons have feet shaped alike, hence the more often footwear is made to order the better.

The round-toed shoe is better than either the pointed or the common-sense shoe. The natural shape of the foot is nearly straight, with the toe a bit in advance of the great one, and a rounding decrease in the length of each of the other three.

Now the fashion of the pointed toe, with its right angles from the great toe joint to the tip going to bring about an abnormal position of the foot by crowding the first two over and upon the others, which soon distorts the muscles and bones and causes great discomfort.

The round toe, which in the well-made boot, follows closely the outline of the foot, is much more shapely to look upon and is in reality more sensible than the so-called common-sense shoe. The boot top should be high for wintry weather and rainy days.

For walking and general wear the dongola kid is the best and next comes the light weight calf. It is well to have the uppers of a softer and less heavy quality than the vamping. It makes movement more easy and it more perfectly.

Choose a boot made wholly in one leather rather than one with the patent leather trimmings. The patent leather will wear out first and look untidy.

No boot is wearable that is not hand sewed. Examine closely the stitching to see that it joins well and that the strip of leather up the back is straight.

The soles should be thick for street and school wear, with layers of cork, so as to do away as far as possible with the rubber, or overshoe, which at best are most unwholesome. They allow of no ventilation whatever, and bring about a process of cooking which when the feet are not in motion to keep up the circulation proves thoroughly unhealthful. The heel should be rather large, beginning at the end of the boot and coming well under the foot.

To keep a boot leather in proper condition it should be frequently rubbed with some soft boot cream; while polishes of all kinds should be avoided.

Three Arrangements For the Hair. To speak of fashion in dressing the hair of a school girl of twelve or thereabouts sounds a bit absurd, but nevertheless there are three distinct modes, and aside from these no manner of arrangement is just now to good taste.

Simplicity, together with a binding to the type of coil and a thought for her comfort during the study time will decide for one.

Never use the iron or crimping pin on the hair of growing girls. On no account must the hair be left loose about her face. If a nervous child this will make her more so. If not nervous it will cause her to become so.

If the features are any way regular and the forehead good then by all means have a part through the middle. This quaint touch always adds a charm to the face and if worn so as a child the hair is sure to fashion a pretty outline for the face.

If the hair is short and inclined to curl it may be tied up in a pretty bunch at the nape of the neck. Should it be thin, then brush it most carefully and let it hang in one plait down the back. Long and heavy hair needs smooth brushing and to hang in two plaits down the back.

Never, no matter how trying the forehead, allow a bang to be worn. Arrange the hair loosely about the face instead and with tasteful training it may be made to gracefully conceal the imperfection.

The hair should be carefully brushed for twenty minutes both night and morning; but never with a stiff brush. Shampoo with tar soap once a month. The foundation for a coming crown of glory is laid in early girlhood, and any sign of poorly nourished hair should be careful looked into. It is best cared for during sleeping hours by being loosely braided.

For the Tailor-Made Girl. The young woman who aspires to masculine severity of attire should copy with the utmost fastidiousness masculine fastidiousness about collars and ties. Many a girl spoils the effect of a tailor costume by some ridiculously inappropriate tie, and there have been girls who did not seem to recognize that the alpha and omega of the law in regard to collars was comprised in absolute cleanliness.

You cannot, however economically minded you may be, wear a linen collar two successive days. In fact, it is often advisable to change it oftener.

Never accept from the hands of your washerwoman or laundryman a linen collar which has been smudged by the iron. No well-dressed man would, and the girl of masculine attire must follow this custom.

Do not put on ancient and slightly frayed collars under the fond delusion that the ragged edge will escape notice. Even if it does not attract attention itself it will leave a line of red, sore skin upon the neck.

Do not wear with your linen collars ties that no well-dressed man would think of wearing. Find out what is correct in form and learn to tie them correctly and to fasten them in some way so that they will not slide from side to side.

The February Modes. Petunia continues to be a very popular color, the pinkish rather than the purple tones of the flower being favored.

Lapped dress skirts, buttoned at the top, with real or simulated buttonholes on the silk lined flaps, will be a feature of many of the new spring walking costumes.

The small, snug Russian toque is a comfortable and well-favored head covering this winter, and it is worn alike with skating, driving, walking and handsome "dress" costumes, according to the quality and quantity of materials and garnitures which compose it.

Some of the handsome Russian-blue costumes are made up with a bolero jacket, girle and cape collar, edged with mink fur, with a blouse vest of blue, cream, gold and green plaided silk, barred with satin whose soft folds are held by the high centre. The sides of the front breadth and the hem are bordered with the fur.

Pastor—Have you seriously considered the great question of life, Mary? Girl Parishoners—None of the young men has asked me yet, sir.

Farm and Household.



HARVESTING POTATOES.

Use of Potato Fork, Plow or Digger, Sorting and Storing.

Potatoes can be dug at any time after they have matured, which is usually when the tops have dried up completely. Do not attempt the work while the ground is wet, for soil will adhere to the tubers and cause much annoyance.

If the ground is in the right condition, the potatoes will come out clean and ready for storing after exposure to the air for a few hours. They will keep much better than if dug when the ground is wet, says Orange Judd Farmer, who also offers the following advice about this operation and the subsequent care of the crop.

The method of digging will depend largely upon the acreage. For small patches a potato fork with four broad tines in the hands of a strong man is the most economical. Especially is this true where the soil is sandy or light and is easily worked. Where a half acre or so is grown an ordinary breaking plow is very satisfactory. Use two horses, and the first time through the row split it about in the middle. Pick up the potatoes that have been exposed; then turn over the other half of the row, throwing the soil in the opposite direction. After the field has been treated in this way harrow thoroughly with a straight toothed harrow, picking up the potatoes that are thus brought to the surface. This is probably the most common method of digging employed by the average farmer. Of course some of the potatoes are covered and lost, but the cheapness of the process more than offsets this.

Where potatoes are grown upon a large scale some of the one horse diggers with metal point and rods for mold-board can be profitably employed. The large diggers drawn by four horses work well and should be considered by commercial growers. The tubers are brought to the surface, where they can be easily picked up. An attachment for running the potatoes directly into the sack or wagon is not practicable, for the reason that they must dry for a little while before putting together in bulk.

Without question the best plan is to sort before storing. Remove all the small or unsalable potatoes and store by themselves. If scale or rot is present, throw out all affected specimens. Some recommend dusting the potatoes with air slacked lime to prevent rotting in storage, but this plan has not been thoroughly tested and should not be tried except on a small scale. A homemade sorter can be easily constructed by taking the bottom out of a long narrow box and substituting slats an inch wide sufficiently far apart to allow the small potatoes to pass through. Cylindrical sorters can be purchased and are satisfactory.

The ideal place for storing potatoes is a cool cellar, where the temperature can be kept around 40 degrees F. This is often difficult to secure. Place in bins which are at least a foot from the cellar wall and six inches off the floor to permit of free circulation of air. It is absolutely necessary that the storage place be perfectly dark. The easiest way to get them from the field is to pick them into bushel boxes or crates made of some very light material. These are easily handled and prevent unnecessary bruising.

Where a cellar is not available pitting in the open field answers nicely. Select a dry spot that is well drained. Excavate about six inches, put in the potatoes as picked from the field, heap up well and cover with about a foot of straw or forest leaves. Throw on about six inches of soil and allow them to remain until freezing weather begins; then add earth until the covering is about three feet deep or sufficient to keep out all frost. Potatoes stored in this manner usually keep well, but are more difficult to get at when wanted for home use or for market.

To Get Rid of Cuckie in Wheat.

There is no fanning mill or machine so far as I know that will take out large sized cuckie seed from Rultz or other wheat whose kernels run small. A screen coarse enough to take out all the cuckie will inevitably reject nearly all the wheat. Small and broken kernels and the smaller grains of cuckie may be blown out or screened out or both by any good modern fanning mill, but the only way I know to clean out all the larger grains of cuckie is to use seed wheat as nearly free from cuckie seed as possible and then early in the spring, while the wheat leaves lie flat and "hung the ground," go carefully through the wheat and pull out all the cuckie. The bread leaved plants are quite easily seen then and in a soft time are easily pulled and thrown into a basket on the arm and taken out of the field and destroyed lest they should take root if simply dropped or cut off with hoe or "spud."

Cracking of Tomatoes.

Often in wet seasons or in seasons of frequent showers tomatoes will crack badly. Dew falling on them at night will cause cracking, especially if the fruit is very ripe. Cold or hot water poured on ripe tomatoes will crack the skin so they can be easily pared. If we pour hot water on the fruit when it is cold, the skin will crack, and if we put cold water on the fruit when it is warm the same result will follow. Some varieties are more easily affected than others, owing to the skin of some varieties being tougher than others. I know of no remedy for this trouble more than to keep the ripe fruit picked. I have sometimes saved extra specimens that I wanted for some special purpose by covering them during wet spells and at night, says a writer in American Agriculturist.

Cook's Penetrating Plasters.

SUNLIGHT IN THE STABLE.

A Neglected Item in the Practice of Good Dairying.

Mr. John Gould of Ohio says he has been in the habit of paying attention to the window lighting of the many stables which he sees, wherein dairy cows pass most of the winter, and under the title of "sunlight in the stable" he records in The Country Gentleman impressions received: I am struck times without number with the little regard which is paid to the proper lighting of a stable, and the little attention these men seem to pay to the value of sunlight in their stables. The usual rule is to put in a few small windows along the northern walls—few of any kind or size. In a large new barn which I recently visited, the semi-basement stable in which more than 40 cows were tied had no light admitted from north, east or west sides save when doors were open and only four small windows on the south side. There seems to be a prejudice against admitting light full and free into a stable, a belief that comfort in a stable consists of making it dark and without ventilation, and then the owners wonder about a great many things that happen while their cows are in the winter stables.

A stable should be as light as the sun can make it and the windows so large that the sunlight can fall on the cows and floors, and if one is afraid that there will be too much falling of temperature during the cold nights by re-ferrence put outside storm windows on, the air space enclosed by which is a sufficient protection. One of the finest dairy herds I ever saw was actually basking in sunlight. There were large windows with outside storm sashes. The temperature was kept very even, and ventilation was secured by flues and dampers, not by either cracks in the walls or open windows.

The testimony everywhere is that the men who have these well lighted stables are warm in their praise. In my barn I would no more think of going back to the dark little windows than of re-adopting the 1850 plan of letting my cows sleep in the wood lot in winter. The verdict everywhere is that the cows are better cared for, do better and are in better health and strength for the abundant light. A cow with the sunlight falling on her in the stable is having all the advantages of a sun bath, and thus escapes zero weather. In the well lighted, sunny stable there are a dryness to the air and freedom from staleness or disagreeable smells which repay one over and over for the little outlay.

I emphatically believe that the cow stable should never be a sub-basement affair or be walled in on the north side with a windowless stone wall. Stables should run north and south and be so arranged that the morning sun comes in on that side, the noon shines in the south end window, and in the afternoon the west windows should get their share. My dairy barn is built this way, and I regard it as a capital plan, though the windows are not extremely large. With sunlight and absorbents I have not the least difficulty in keeping a warm, dry stable.

Report of Bureau of Animal Industry.

It is announced that the seventeenth annual report of the bureau of animal industry will be available for distribution by senators and representatives about Dec. 1, 1898. It gives the number and value of horses, mules, milk cows, oxen and other cattle, sheep and swine in the United States or the States 1867 to 1896, inclusive, and by states for the years 1870 to 1896, inclusive. These statistics, with those on the imports and exports of animals and animal products for the years 1892 to 1896, inclusive, make the volume valuable to all who desire to have such facts in form for ready reference.

It also contains a comprehensive illustrated article on "Sheep Scab; Its Nature and Treatment," by Dr. D. E. Salmon and Dr. Ch. Wardell Stiles. The article gives a brief history of sheep scab, as well as a full description of the four kinds. All the methods of treatment are considered, including the formulas of the different kinds of dips in use. The various dipping plants are fully illustrated and described.

Precautions Against Orange Hawkweed.

Do not grow the plant in flower gardens or carry the flowers home for bouquets.

Do not buy hay or straw from farms known to be infected with it.

Do not mix the hay from infected patches with clean hay. It would be better to burn the hay from infected patches out after the seed is mature rather than run the risk of scattering the seed by hauling, feeding or in manure.

Agitate the necessity of destroying patches of weeds growing along roadsides, on abandoned or neglected farms and on waste places in towns.

Learn to recognize the plant, so as to early detect its presence on the farm and destroy it.

Agricultural Brevities.

At the Ohio station ground manured during the winter direct from the stable for corn and another piece just before plowing in the spring gave higher yields of oats for the earlier application and lower yields of wheat the following years.

The new sugar beet factory at Binghanton, N. Y., goes into operation under the management of a Belgian beet sugar expert and expects to convert the product of 2,000 acres into sugar.

The New York and Pennsylvania honey production this season is reported below the average.

A short potato crop is the estimate this year.

J. J. H. Gregory says in American Cultivator that in all his many years of handling sweet corn he cannot recall a season when he found so few smutty ears among his seeds.

"Marriage," a man says, "is an insane desire to pay two weeks' board at once." The woman who weds a "bad egg" need not expect to find the matrimonial yoke pleasant.

DEEPENING FERTILE SOIL.

Some Objections to Deep Fall Plowing—Security Against Drought.

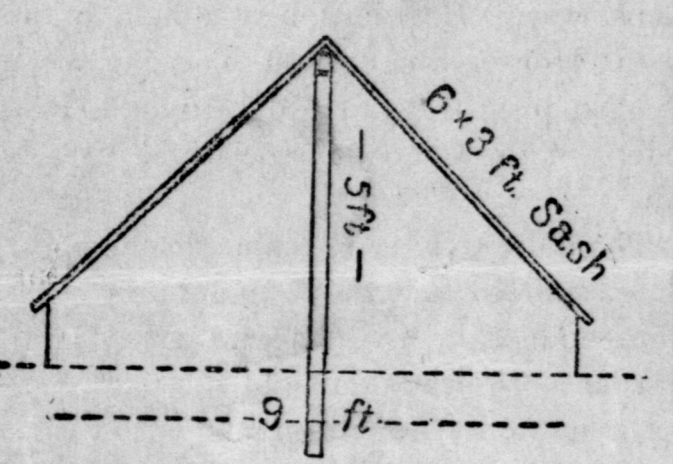
Every farmer who has cultivated land where an underlying bed of rock comes near to the surface knows what a disadvantage such soil has when a drought comes. It is hardly less a disadvantage to have only a few inches of fertile soil near the surface while all below is a hard clay or sand that contains little of the elements of fertility. To make such soils deeper is the first wish of the farmer. But it is a matter that is not always easily accomplished. Merely plowing up some of this subsoil and bringing it to the surface may or may not be good policy, according to what the subsoil is. Most clay soils have some potash, and some have phosphate also. To turn up a little of this to be acted upon by frost and air will help make these mineral elements available. But if done it should be always plowed in fall, so that the subsoil may be on the surface, where it is sure to get repeated freezing and thawing.

The most common objection to fall plowing, that it merely brings to the surface a larger amount of rich soil to be acted upon by frost and either blown away by winds or washed away during winter, is wholly done away with if the plow is run an inch or two deeper, bringing up soil that will not be washed away, because until winter's freezing, it has no soluble plant food. Some of this soil made into fine dust will be blown away into adjoining fields, but if they are in grass, this top dressing of subsoil that a few months before had no fertility, will produce remarkable results. If in spring this inch or two of subsoil can be cultivated in so as to mix with the richer soil beneath, both will be benefited. The fertility is of different kinds, and both are needed for most kinds of crops.

Some farmers still plow to a depth of seven, eight or nine inches for their corn. If the land has been used to this deep plowing and has grown several crops of clover, this will not probably injure their corn crop even if done in the spring. But it is far better where such deep plowing is contemplated to do the work in the fall, letting frost go through the entire furrow, as it will, and mellowing it to the full depth it has been plowed. Deep plowing in the fall allows the water from rains and snows to sink into the soil, so as to store a much greater amount than the soil could receive, if the plowing had been deferred until spring. Hence, The American Cultivator, which advances the foregoing view, concludes that the deepening of soil by deep fall plowing is one of the best securities that crops on land thus treated shall not suffer from drought the following season.

A Philadelphia Institution.

Lettuce is fall sown and grown without heat in the famous Philadelphia truck gardens. The following information about the "shanty house," an in-



SHANTY HOUSE FOR LETTUCE.

stitution of high repute among Philadelphia gardeners, is quoted by Rural New Yorker from an extensive grower: "Both frames and shanty houses are built right on the ground. There is no hotbed foundation or anything more than field cultivation. Owing to the way the structures are built we can remove the whole thing and work up the ground with a horse and plow or cultivator. The frame is built with boards laid right on the top of the ground, the sashes over them. The shanty houses are built just like the frames as to the bed, but a ridgepole and rafters are set up, and instead of a single line of sash, there is a double row meeting at the top to form a high pitched roof. The roof is much steeper than that of a greenhouse, having a pitch of about six inches to the foot.

"The sides are formed with a simple board one foot high, this being nailed to short posts in the same manner as one would do for a cold frame. The center posts and ridgepole are made of 3 by 4 scantling. The roof is composed of 6 by 3 foot sashes nailed or screwed to the sides and ridge. The ends are closed in with barn boards, or any kind of cheap lumber, and a door about 2 by 4 feet 6 inches for entrance. There are no raised beds, the lettuce being planted on the ground level. The shanty houses catch and hold a greater body of heat than the frames and hurry the salad along."

News and Notes.

So far as heard from, the rate of yield of potatoes in different sections varies greatly.

The last crop report of the department of agriculture gives no average condition of tobacco for the whole country, but reports for nearly all the important tobacco growing states from 89 per cent (as in the case of Kentucky) to 98 per cent (as in the case of Tennessee) of a full crop.

In regard to clover seed the government's crop circular states that it is manifest from the reports that have been received that the acreage is less than it was last year, and that the condition is in the main unfavorable. In many states there has been a more or less extensive conversion of clover fields to pasture, owing to the poor prospects.

The Ohio station concludes from wheat tests that Velvet Chaff is best for black lands, Valley for strong bottom lands and Poole for lighter soils.

In comparative tests of 11 varieties of rape at the Minnesota station Dwarf Essex produced the largest yield.

"Dickie, what did you do with that dime I gave you for taking your cousin?" "Why, pa, I bought some lickerish with it, cents—an' with it cents I hired Tommy Budds to take th' quintine."

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