

Colonial Farmer

LUGBIN & SON, Proprietors.

POSTAGE PAID

SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 a year

OLD SERIES, VOL. 15 NEW SERIES VOL. 4.

FREDERICTON, N. B., JULY 16, 1877.

NO. 41, WHOLE NUMBER 724

Correspondence.

For the Colonial Farmer.

RURAL TOPICS.

HOW MOST TO BENEFIT MY READERS.

In preparing a weekly column, or more, of "Rural Topics," to be of the greatest benefit to the readers of them, it is necessary to give the views, or opinions, of different men on the subjects that I select. I, therefore, embody in my "Topics," to a considerable extent, the *cream* of the Agricultural and Horticultural press—short articles that come right to the points discussed. It is said that, "in a multitude of counsel there is wisdom;" and though it cannot be expected that every subject discussed will be of interest to all rural readers. I think I may say that it would be very difficult to lay before farmers and others of the many States in which these "Topics" are circulated, a weekly series of articles of more advantage to them. I may also, perhaps, be excused for saying that I have been a constant writer on rural affairs for over thirty years, with an extensive practical experience; and being a reader of all the leading Agricultural and Horticultural papers of the United States, I think my writings and compilations ought to be of general interest and benefit to those who do not read the agricultural papers extensively.

MILK VEINS.

An experienced dairyman says in the *Ohio Farmer*: "It is generally considered a most excellent sign of a good milker to show large crooked veins running forward of the udder and entering the belly in two large holes. There is some truth and considerable fiction in this. It will be borne in mind that these veins lead from the udder and not to it. They are made to carry off the blood that the cow is not able to utilize in her udder. To prove this, place the finger on the vein, and if held hard and long enough, the blood will swell the vein between the finger and udder, and the vein will correspondingly decrease in size on the other side of the finger, just as a stream that is dammed up, thus showing which way the blood flows. I omit the scientific proof of this fact. In other words, this vein is a mere sewer to the udder, carrying off the water or refuse blood. It is like judging the working capacity of a carpenter by the amount of chips he makes. It is of course an indication, and a pretty fair one, but by no means conclusive. In my own experience, except with old cows, I have found this point very unreliable. In fact, I presume the size of the veins is more a freak of nature than a necessity, as the veins are always large enough to carry the blood, and their display depends upon the thickness of the skin and hair."

A WASH FOR FRUIT TREES.

Solomon Jewett, one of the most noted farmers of Vermont, writes to the *New York World*: "Apply a wash of lime or soap to the bodies of trees. It will save them from the attack of many a pest which domiciles in the bark and sap-wood. You will find that the old bark will fall off, leaving smooth, fresh, healthy wood on the surface. It is also a good preventive from the attacks of the several species of borers. Be careful to wash very close to the ground, and upwards. Tar is not advisable. Do not apply it to the bark of any growing tree; it is a common but bad practice. Tar penetrates the sap-wood, checks the growth of bark at the point at which it binds the tree, and checks the circulation up and down where applied. In 1825 I used a barrel of tar, with a brush running a band around each tree. While chopping down the old trees afterwards I saw the effects. The bark and sap-wood were colored, and the body was smaller under the belt of tar. That same year I assisted in destroying at least 60 bushes of 'forest worms,' much resembling the common nest apple tree worm. Our trees were saved from ruin, and bore much fruit, while the surrounding orchards stood leafless, and much injured. A long, cold storm was pending, while the worm in chrysalis was housed in his cocoon that year by the million. A long rain and severe chill killed them off at that early stage. Orchards and forests of maple trees have not been materially injured since by this species of worm."

ORCHARD GRASS.

At a late meeting of the New York Farmers' Club a Long Island farmer was present, with a sample of orchard grass three feet high, showing what good cultivation will do for it. He said that this valuable, though much neglected grass, is indigenous to the soil of America, and from its adaptability to various soils, its early and late growth, luxuriant foliage and nutritive qualities, is well entitled to

an equality with any grass, either native or foreign, which is being cultivated in this country. Many of our best farmers who feed all their hay value a mixture of orchard grass and red clover more than any other grasses. It makes a highly nutritious hay, and is much relished by stock of all kinds. Clover hay—that is, hay where clover predominates, grows too rank and coarse the first year after wheat, unless forsoiling. Red clover is a biennial plant, and every farmer experiences that it is only after the second year from wheat that makes the article so salable in market under the name of timothy hay. Orchard grass, when sown with clover, obviates this difficulty, grows as rapidly as clover, starts in the spring as early, and by this similarity of habit makes a suitable grass to mix with it. For pasturage it stands a drought better than any other, will bear heavier stocking and comes forward in the spring very early. Orchard grass quickly recovers and grows after being closely cropped; a week or ten days of summer growth will make quite a good pasturage. It also, by its great amount of fibrous roots, tends to improve instead of impoverish the soil. It is not at all fit for a lawn, as it sometimes grows in bunches or tussocks, especially when sown thin. The proper quantity when sown alone is but two bushels to the acre; when sown with clover one bushel is sufficient. Perhaps there are no two grasses that can be sown together with so great advantage as red clover and orchard grass. By their union the crop is nearly double what it would be if each were sown separately; they grow and flower well together, come to maturity about the same time, and the clover is supported from falling by the uncommon strength of the orchard grass.

POTATO BEETLES.

"I take a pailful of water (say three gallons) and thicken it over the fire with rye or wheat flour, or with the common starch that is used for dressing satinet warps. I thicken the whole three gallons to the consistency of cold molasses. I then take a half pint of this starch, pour it into another pailful of cold water, and add one tablespoonful of Paris green, and mix the whole thoroughly, care being taken to keep it evenly mixed, and with a sprinkler or syringe apply to each plant or hill. One or two applications during the season will be sufficient. If the beetles are as numerous as I have seen here, the stench from the field the next day will be sufficient evidence that the work has been accomplished."—[Selected.]

NOT RELIABLE.

A successful dodge in free advertising of commercial fertilizers may be expected in the papers, now that such fertilizers begin to attract considerable attention. For instance, a dealer in them writes articles for the press, stating fictitious results from their use, and signs his name 'Farmer,' or some other *nom de plume*. I have such a one before me in the *Ohio Farmer*, signed, 'Farmer, New Hampshire,' who gives a long statement of the wonderful results on a 'New England Farm' from the use of ground bones, fish phosphate, wood ashes, guano, potash, oil of vitriol, sulphate of magnesia, nitrate of soda, do. of potash (saltpetre) and other fertilizers. Here is a specimen of what he says he produced: "One measured acre plowed in autumn and dressed in spring with five hundred pounds of pure, fine bone, sown broadcast, was planted with corn. A handful of superphosphate was placed in each hill. From this acre one hundred and fifty-seven bushels of corn in the ear were gathered. The following year, by the application of eight hundred pounds of mixture of ashes, bonedust and saltpetre, thirty-one bushels of winter rye were raised." He adds that his farm has never produced less than seventy bushels of shelled corn to the acre since he commenced using these fertilizers. This is, probably, one of the bogus free advertising dodges to which I refer, and I allude to it to put farmers on their guard. The most of the fertilizers he claims to have used are useful and in some cases profitable to apply to crops, but the extraordinary products alleged to have been obtained from their application may justly be looked on with suspicion.

PRUNING GRAPE VINES IN SUMMER.

Grape vines are managed in summer in different ways by different men; and when one has read the various methods of summer pruning, published in the agricultural and horticultural papers, he finds the opinions of grape growers so various that he is merely befogged by them, if he is a novice in the business. Even the books published on grape culture are of little value, as they are written from 15 to 20 years ago, and when our ideas on grape growing were

very crude. I will state a few points that 25 years' experience have proved to me to be correct, as follows:

1. Thrifty vines, as the Concord, Hartford Prolific and others of very free growth, should leave trellises 10 or 12 high, in order to obtain the greatest amount, after the vines have fruited four or five years; and the summer pruning should consist in cutting away feeble shoots wherever found, thus throwing the vitality of the vines into the stronger canes, which will produce the fruit buds of the next season.

2. Pinching back bearing canes to within a leaf or two of the nearest bunches is of no benefit to the fruit, as the leaves of the canes are the lungs of the vines; and I claim that, if the vines be shortened in at all, it should be done very moderately, merely stopping the further growth of canes by pinching them off near their ends.

3. In no case should the most thrifty canes be shortened during the summer, as they will be the canes which bear the next year's fruit.

4. As the fruit begins to turn in color, do not remove any leaves to expose the grapes to the sun, as they ripen so much sooner by so doing, and the effect of the sun is injurious rather than beneficial, while the removal of the leaves actually retards the ripening of the grapes, by checking the flow of sap through the canes, which the leaves regulate according to the requirement of the growing fruit.

5. To produce the best fruit, and in perfection, the small clusters of grapes, when vines set a great deal of fruit, must be cut, or pinched off, leaving but one bunch generally to each shoot or cane. Many vines are often so productive that it is impossible for the roots to afford full sustenance to the entire crop; and in such cases I remove about one-half, always leaving the largest bunches, and the result is splendid fruit, while that on vines not so served is of much less value.

Miscellaneous.

Water which fowls drink should never be exposed directly to the rays of the sun. It should be kept in a shady and cool place or protected with a board to keep it cool and fresh.

LESS require more room than most poultryers allow them. To carry through the cold season fifty or sixty birds, composed of adults and the average proportion of young stock, the hen house should be at least 40 by 20 feet square, upon the ground, or say 30 by 25 feet. This gives but 750 to 800 feet of ground space for our four or five dozen fowls to move about on, week after week, for four months or more annually. Twelve square feet each is not too much foot space in which to keep fowls healthy and thrifty in confined limits; yet less room can be got along with. If the house be but 30 by 20 feet it will accommodate fifty or sixty birds very well.—*N. Y. Weekly Herald.*

VALUE OF PEDIGREE.—In an article on the value of pedigree, the *National Live Stock Journal* says:—"Pedigree is only valuable as it furnishes us with a history of the ancestry. The quality of the animal itself is of more importance than that of its sire or dam. The character of the sire and dam is more important than that of the ancestry in the second remove, and the second is more important than the third, the third than the fourth, and so on—the importance of the cross decreasing in proportion as the distance increases. The most successful breeders are uniformly those who rigorously weed out the inferior animals—breeding only from the best, and rejecting the defective, no matter how rich or long the pedigree may be. A good animal, descended from good ancestors, is the touchstone by which to select breeding stock."

Cause of Sheep Losing Their Wool.

There is no method of medicine—no food or treatment—that will arrest the wool from falling from the sheep once it has begun, for the reason that the injury is done to the fibre of the wool, long before it begins to fall out. The wool, by some sickness or disease, or maltreatment in feeding, has been arrested in continuous growth, and is broken or rotted, and when the new growth of wool starts, it pushes the old wool out till it drops. We often hear many wool growers say "I wonder what makes that sheep cast its fleece or drop its wool." It has been treated as well as the rest." But the fact is, it has had a bad spell of some kind some time in the fall, and has been overlooked till the fleece tells the story. All the grain it will eat, and the best of hay, won't make the wool unite again after it is once broken. Of course the sheep that are getting into the best condition with the grain feed, are only hurrying up to grow a new

fleece, and are shedding their old rotten fleece faster than those that are not so well fed. That is the whole secret. The only way to save the wool is to shear it then and blanket the sheep, or keep them under cover till mild weather, with good feed. If they have any skin disease, or are troubled with ticks, you will then see it, and be prepared to apply the proper remedies.—*Michigan Farmer.*

The French mode of raising tomatoes is as follows: As soon as a cluster of flowers is visible, they top the stem down to the cluster, the buds soon push strongly and produce another cluster of flowers each. When these are visible, the branch to which they belong is also topped down to their level; and this is done five times successively. By this means the plants become stout dwarf bushes, not above eighteen inches high. In order to prevent their fall over, sticks or strings are stretched horizontally along the rows, so as to keep the plants erect. In addition to this, all laterals that have no flowers, and after the fifth topping, all laterals whatever, are nipped off. In this way the ripe sap is directed into the fruit, which acquires a beauty, size and excellence unattainable by other means. Thoroughbred vs. Common Sheep.

A farmer in this country, who is supposed to own as good common sheep as anybody in this locality, sheared his flock on the 23d, and after weighing the fleeces, found that each sheep averaged two and a half pounds. Take the whole number of sheep in this state, and they probably will not average more than the above. Say that wool is worth twenty cents per pound, the profits from each sheep will be fifty cents. Take now an estimate of fleeces of the thoroughbred Merino and Cotswold, which will not average less than eight pounds per head—the net profits on each sheep, \$1.60 or \$1.10 in favor of the thoroughbred will command a higher market value. Now it cost the same to raise the thoroughbred as the common sheep; the mutton of one is as good as the other; the profits of the wool of the thoroughbred is three times greater than from the common. Every farmer owning a flock of sheep should make it convenient to purchase a thoroughbred ram to improve the quality and yield of his wool; such an investment will pay.—*Live Stock Journal.*

A GOOD WORD FOR THE CROW.—Let me speak for the crow. Last year I was harrowing corn with a vibrating harrow having teeth (you know it is a noisy thing), it uncovered a great number of white grubs which you could see all about the ground. They are very destructive to vegetation of all kinds. They ate or destroyed thousands of hills of corn that year. You could see the track of the grub as he travelled to get something to eat, for they travel when in search of food. You could see the surface of the ground a little elevated, and checked when the surface is hard and dry. Well, you see when I was harrowing, as soon as the crows heard the harrow at work they would come and light on the ground that was being harrowed, and the fresher the better they liked it; when going one way they would light after I had passed along, when I returned and came within six or eight rods of them they would rise gently and circle round in the rear again. I have counted as many as seventeen grubs that one crow picked up at one lighting. They take any and everything, large and small, that is worms, grubs, and beetles. Crows can't pull corn when planted with a machine; we have no fear of them from that source. Finally, wherever civilization is there are rooks or crows.—*Chautauqua Farmer.*

Butter in France.

If our dairymen need a spur, an eye opener, a lesson which speaks volumes in three words, here is one at the head of this article. Butter is actually brought from France and sold by the New York dealers. This is because there is an actual scarcity of good butter in the market, put up in an attractive shape for small consumers. When we know that one dairyman gets \$1.15 a pound for his products, another \$1, and another 75 cents the year round, at his dairy door, it is easily seen that it will pay to bring butter across the ocean from France, if it is only good and shapely enough to suit fastidious purchasers who will have something nice, what ever it may cost. All this butter is made from choice cows, choicely fed on clean sweet food; the milking is done in the cleanest manner. The milk is handled as carefully as though it were nectar, the cream is churned with clock and thermometer, the butter is worked with skill, and is made up in shapely cakes, which do not

require to be cut when brought to the table. Compare then, this cake—hard, golden yellow, sweet, fragrant and tempting to all the senses—with an unsightly chunk, which is cut out of a greasy keg, and smells of old age and rancidity, and is made from ill-kept cream from cows filthily lodged and carelessly milked, and is churned anyhow, and the difference is amply accounted for.

Summer Vermin.

Fowls are subject to the attacks of two kinds of vermin, which in summer are worse than at any other season. The more common is the louse; the other is a mite, which has the appearance of a minute spider. The louse lives on the bodies and feathers of the fowls, while the mite conceals itself in the cracks and crevices of the hen house, coming out at night and prey- ing upon the fowls and then returning to its hiding place. The louse may be got rid of generally by providing the fowls with dry ashes, sand and dust, in which they can bathe themselves. It is a good plan to sift ashes and dust for this purpose, adding to them some flour of sulphur. Place the mixture where it can be easily used, and the fowls will soon free themselves from vermin. The mite is usually destroyed by applying a good coat of whitewash to the poultry house, but the surest way is to fumigate the house thoroughly. It is necessary to stop all the openings of the house as tight as possible. Take an old pan or iron pot and place some live coals in it; then take tobacco (cigar refuse will answer) and lay on the coals as a top layer, after which put in a sufficient quantity of rolled brimstone, broken up. Have everything in readiness before you begin. Shut the door up tight before you fumigate, and the sulphur fumes will do their work effectually.

Keeping of poultry in Orchards.

Keeping poultry in orchards is a matter that should be practised when possible. We believe that if farmers and fruit-raisers knew the benefits arising from such management, they would at once adopt it. Last fall we visited an orchard in which fowls were kept; the owner of which told us that before the fowls were confined in it the trees made little or no growth, and only a corresponding amount of fruit was obtained. But what a change was evident now. The grass was kept down, the weeds killed, and the trees presented an appearance of thrift which the most enthusiastic horticulturist could not but admire and envy. The growth of the trees was most vigorous, and their foliage remarkably luxuriant. The fruit was abundant, of large size and free from worms and other imperfections. This excellence was accounted for by the proprietor, who remarked that the "hens ate all the worms and curculion in their reach, even the canker worm." He found less trouble with their roosting in trees than he expected, and that a picket fence six feet high kept them within bounds. His orchard was divided into three sections, and the fowls were changed from one to another, as the condition of the fowls or the orchard section seemed to require.—*Poultry World.*

The Canker Worm.

A gentleman writes to the *Boston Globe* as follows concerning this pest and the way of ridding trees from its ravages:

The people of this village who have apple trees are just now in ecstasy over the new-discovered means for capturing the canker worms, and the process is so simple yet so effective that it should be known and thoroughly used wherever that pest has made its appearance. For a few days past a gentleman has watched with vexatious regret the progress of devastation upon his finest fruit trees and was about to apply the axe as a remedy, when noticing how easily worms are beat or shaken off the tree, experimentally to prevent their return and found that fine, dry ashes, lime or plaster heaped around the trunk of the tree would surely prevent their ascent, and being voracious eaters they soon perish on the ground, or may be readily gathered up and destroyed, as they collect in multitudes, attempting to climb up the line and fall back without reaching the firm bark of the tree. The plan has been satisfactorily tested, and the lime heaps about the trees in nearly every garden show the determination to preserve valuable fruit by thus arresting the blighting scourge. A steep slope around the trees may be made with dirt, then cover with fine dry ashes or lime, and scatter up a little on the bark, and the worms are effectually stopped. They cannot climb up a loose, dry, stony substance. The worms are nearly done eating for this year, but it will be worth while to apply this remedy in season next year.

Liquid Manure.

It is generally believed that no system of enriching land for small gardens, with a view to perfection of crops is so truly economical and so easily available as that of liquid manure. We occasionally hear of a gardener, or an amateur fruit grower, who has practiced enriching the crop by use of liquid manure, but it is not a common practice so to enrich our gardens and lawns, however oftentimes the advocacy of the practice has been written. The writer practiced the sprinkling of a lawn in a dry season with weak liquid manure water, and in the greatest of heat and drought has kept it fresh and green. In the management of pot plants, no course of supplying food equals that of a judicious use of liquid manure. There are in almost every family waste liquids, which usually go into a sewer or drains, or possibly upon the road, where they are of no avail, but if saved by being conducted to a tank, along with wash water of the house would enrich an entire garden for vegetables and fruits, flower borders, etc., and the whole, if the wash be applied regularly, and at night, after sunset, in moderate quantities, would prevent the driest weather of midsummer from checking vegetation. If an unpleasant odor comes from the tank, a little plaster (gypsum) sprinkled in and around the tank, would keep it sweet and clean. Again, the use of liquid manure need never delay planting because of manure not being on hand, but planting could proceed and the application of manure be made at leisure.—*F. R. Elliott, in American Rural Home.*

Early Cut Hay.

We urge upon our readers the importance of not allowing their grass and clover to stand until they are matured. The advantage of early cutting cannot be overstated. Stock, we know, will thrive and fatten on good pasture, while upon the same grass, matured and made into hay, according to the same common custom, stock will run down in flesh. This is because the nutritious juices are not saved. When the grass is matured and dried, the juices are gone even before it is cut, or they may be evaporated in the curing. Some months ago, we gave the results of some very interesting experiments in feeding cattle on grass cut before it was headed out, showing that such grass, properly cured, will fatten cattle as well as the green grass of our best pastures, and that the aftermath, in meadows thus cut, started right up, just as the grass does on a closely-cropped pasture.

These are considerations of great importance to all farmers, and especially so to stock-breeders. We therefore respectfully urge that our readers shall give this suggestion of the early cutting and curing of grass a fair test; and that as to all their meadows the clover should be cut as soon as it is fairly in blossom, and the timothy while it is in flower.

For ourselves, we aim to cut before rather than after these periods—especially when the weather is good for curing. Particular pains should be taken not to cure too much, never forgetting that the great object is to preserve and save the juices.—*National Live Stock Journal.*

Now For Budding.

It is to be taken for granted that every farmer, or one of his sons, or even daughters—for we have known daughters to graft—knows how to graft, and large numbers employ that knowledge in springtime to put a good head on a wild tree, or to change the character of one to something more desirable. But the spring is generally crowded with work. Few get done what they desired and intended to do; and among the put-off things very likely of all others will be the grafting. Something of this can be made up at this season by budding, or inoculation, as it is sometimes called. It does not find the same favour with farmers as with nurserymen because no time seems to be gained over grafting the following spring, for the buds put in now do not push into growth till the next spring season. If grafts are put in next year they grow immediately, and make stronger growths and form a good head much sooner than buds put in at this season will. But then there is the question of time. If one waits for spring it may never be done. This is comparatively easy in some leisure, and a tree budded now is done with. It will keep on growing, and certainly will beat the tree that never was done! Budding is so simple an operation, and has been over and over again described in our columns, that most persons who are likely to be benefited by this article know how it is done or ought to know.—A piece of bark con-

taining a leaf-stalk and the eye at its base is simply put under the bark of the stock to be improved, and which has been slit and "lifted" or loosened by the back of a knife for the purpose. After insertion the bud is tied firmly in. Anyone can understand this, and only experiment can teach more. But there is one thing which all budding do not understand, and we will explain why even some good hands fail in their work. The branch on which the bud is to go must be thrifty, vigorous, and in every way healthy, or the buds will not "take." Failure in most cases comes from this. It does not make much difference whether the branch to be operated on is more than one year old, so that the bark separates freely from the wood—as the budding says, "runs freely"—but it is essential that it should be in perfect health. The bark generally loosens freely during the latter half of summer, if in the condition we have described. In regard to the bud it must not be too young. Failure generally comes from this. There is far less chance of failure with very old buds than with young ones. All the buds must be of this season's growth.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

Farms are made Enduring by Keeping Stock.

Farming in the West will be pursued in the future by a very different system from that now practiced, in that there will be less sold off the farm in the crude state. This result is inevitable for two reasons, viz., 1st, that the land will not stand the steady annual cropping, no return being made to compensate for the drain; 2nd, that men are very generally convinced that no profit can be made by selling grain in the crude state. If the grain be fed in a profitable manner, there are two material gains made; not the least, and by far the most enduring, is found in the maintenance of the strength of our land.

The stock we feed and sell is soon gone from our sight, and each shipment counts out its own profit or loss. No indelible mark is left, except the mark which the manure makes, and this mark will be more enduring than most men accord it with being. Forest lands that are rich are said by some to be more enduring than prairie lands, because they have for a longer time received vegetable deposit upon the surface, and upon the removal of the timber the roots of trees and decayed stumps and logs furnish fertilizing material for a long time. If there be any truth in this notion favorable to timbered land, then it behooves western men to compensate by keeping stock upon their farms, from the first, and to husband the manure carefully.

But few men know—because they have not tried it—how much farm stock can be well maintained upon a farm having plenty of meadow and pasture land, and a very few acre relatively of tillage land. None but those who have tried it know how little labor will run a large farm, mainly in grass, and well stocked, and none but those who have tried it, and have carefully observed the growth of young stock, know how growth accumulates, the stock being, so to speak, self-tenders in the meantime.

Treating Grape Vines.

What shall I do with the excess of wood-growth in our strong-growing vines? is a question often asked. To permit a free range is to do it at the expense of the fruit. On the other hand, to cut back and keep close in, and large numbers employ that knowledge in springtime to put a good head on a wild tree, or to change the character of one to something more desirable. But the spring is generally crowded with work. Few get done what they desired and intended to do; and among the put-off things very likely of all others will be the grafting. Something of this can be made up at this season by budding, or inoculation, as it is sometimes called. It does not find the same favour with farmers as with nurserymen because no time seems to be gained over grafting the following spring, for the buds put in now do not push into growth till the next spring season. If grafts are put in next year they grow immediately, and make stronger growths and form a good head much sooner than buds put in at this season will. But then there is the question of time. If one waits for spring it may never be done. This is comparatively easy in some leisure, and a tree budded now is done with. It will keep on growing, and certainly will beat the tree that never was done! Budding is so simple an operation, and has been over and over again described in our columns, that most persons who are likely to be benefited by this article know how it is done or ought to know.—A piece of bark con-

and balance which cannot be too strongly insisted upon, forming as they do, a gauge to successful grape culture. To secure this it must be known how to control the energy of the vine, and what quantity is wanted. This quantity is depending upon the condition of the soil, which must therefore be the first consideration, and must be adapted to what is wanted, and this is, first, drainage, and deep drainage, giving the roots even a chance for air and warmth, and thus healthfulness. This secured, and the ground in a porous—or better, mellow—condition, there will be a chance for a wide reach of the roots in pursuit of food, requiring thus a less concentrated fertility, but easily supplied, if required, through the porous condition of the soil. If sufficient sun can be obtained, I find no better place than that near a dwelling having a cellar. My experience justifies me in saying this, and emphasizing it. Let it be put near the angle of the cellar and the drain. The true vineyardist will hold the vine in hand, his rein upon all that relates to it; drainage and friability of soil, with a proper proportion of the elements of growth, depending rather upon natural or ripe fertility than upon manure, the growth in this way held in poise, aided by the substitution of new wood for old, with little removal of new, and much thinning out of fruit in its incipient stage in the strong bearing roots, thus avoiding excess, and loss and straining, and conserving the strength for the time to come. I have said the thinning should be done early. This is to prevent waste from after-clipping when the clusters are advanced. This is a point on which it is difficult to secure the action of the inexperienced. They "pity" the fruit, and so let it grow. The result is innumerable small bunches, berries few and straggling, and flavour off. The point is very important, and now is the time that it is to be seen to. In all the strong bearers at least half of the bunches should be clipped off, leaving one or two clusters to a shoot, removing the smallest. At the same time clip the shoot at the third or fourth leaf from the cluster, or the last one if two are left. Afterwards, when the laterals push forth from the buds at the leaves, pinch them back also, leaving a few leaves, thus affording a full leaf power and an increased force (in the lateral) to correspond with the growth of the bunch. Start canes enough to supply a third, or half if the vine is not old, of the next year's growth, removing the same amount of old wood. Train these where it is most convenient, and where they least intrude on the bearing vines. I prefer to have canes started at or near the ground. It is important, especially if the ground is not rich, to cultivate it often during the first half of the season, or a little later. Frequent stirring is an advantage, particularly in a drouth. The growth which results from this action is always a healthy one. Take care of the vine and it will repay you, otherwise it will be a disappointment.—*Utica Herald.*

RECEIPTS, ETC.

REMOVING CHAFF FROM THE EYE.—I have had some experience of chaff in the eyes of cattle. The safest and simplest cure I ever tried is to take a small touch of tar on the forefinger and touch the chaff. It will adhere to the finger without injury to the eye.

CORN BREAD.—One pint of sour milk or buttermilk, one pint corn meal, one pint wheat flour, two even teaspoonfuls of soda, one teaspoonful molasses or sugar, one large teaspoonful salt. Bake half an hour or more in a thin loaf. This makes a nice breakfast dish, hot, and is good cold.

COFFEE FOR TIBED HORSES.—A veterinary surgeon of Prague is said to have discovered that strong coffee has a wonderfully reviving effect upon decrepit and overworked horses. In a very short time it renews their vigor, smooths their skin and restores their full capacity for work.

MOUNTAIN GINGER BREAD.—Take half pound butter, quarter pound brown sugar, six eggs, yolks and whites beaten separately, one teaspoonful each ground cinnamon, allspice, and cloves; a half a teaspoonful ginger, three-quarters pint molasses, four tablespoonfuls sweet milk, and one pound flour having in it one tablespoonful soda and one of cream of tartar.

LEMON-CREAM PIE.—Stir together to a cream one tablespoonful butter and one teaspoonful sugar; wet a tablespoonful corn starch in cold water, then stir into a cup of boiling water, and mix all with the butter and sugar, and let cool. Grate the outer rind of one lemon, and mix with a well beaten egg. Remove the white inner rind of about the remainder fine, then stir all the ingredients together, and bake without a top crust.