

FARM AND GARDEN.

Canada thistles, it is said, may be sometimes entirely eradicated by ploughing them under in mid-summer, just before they blossom. The plant at that season is so full of sap that it rots rapidly, and the enfeebled root cannot recover. When ploughing, the tops of the thistles are turned down with a chain attached to the plough.

It is claimed upon good authority that hay can be much improved by salting it. It is becoming the custom in the States to scatter handfuls of common salt on every layer when stacking. The salt, by absorbing the humidity of the hay, not only prevents its fermentation and consequent heating, but it also adds a salty taste to this forage, which all cattle like; besides this, it stimulates the appetite and assists their digestion and so preserves them from many diseases.

Plough up the old cow yards, running the plough deep, and as many loads of earth as you can remove, so many loads of rich fertilizer you will have. We have read of an enterprising gentleman who manured ten acres of grass with earth from under an old barn, and got enormous growth for several years after.

Nearly 6,000,000 acres of land in Germany have recently been diverted from the cereals to sugar beet culture. The sugar itself yields a profit, and its refuse makes excellent feed for cattle and hence to make the country independent as to meat.

SHEEP KEEPING.—1. Keep sheep dry under foot with litter. This is even more necessary than roofing them. Never let them stand or lie in mud or water.

2. Take up lamb bucks early in the summer and keep until December following, when they may be turned out.

3. Count every day.

4. Begin graining with the greatest care, and use small quantities first.

5. If a ewe loses her lamb milk her daily for a few days, mixing alum with her salt.

6. Let no hogs get with the sheep in the spring, by any means.

7. Give the lamb a little milk in time of weaning.

8. Never frighten sheep if possible to avoid it.

9. Some rye for weak ones in cold weather, if you can.

10. Separate all weak, thin or sick from the strong in the fall, and give them especial care.

11. If any sheep is hurt catch it at once and wash the wound, and if it is fly time apply spirits of turpentine daily, and wash with something healing. If a limb is broken, bind it with splinters tightly, loosening as the limb swells.

12. Keep good bells on a number of the sheep.

13. Never let the sheep spoil wool with chaff or burs.

14. Cut tag-locks in early spring.

15. For scours give pulverized alum in wheat bran; prevent by taking great care in changing dry for green food.

16. If one is lame, examine the foot, clean out between the hoofs, if unsound apply tobacco with blue vitriol boiled in a little water.

HAVE PLENTY OF WINTER SQUASHES.—The secret of my success in raising Hubbard squashes for winter is, late planting and planting among the potatoes. I do not know whether potato vines are distasteful to the striped bugs or whether the pest do not find the squashes among the vines, but the fact remains that I have never had the latter disturbed when planted in this way. I manure a strip about a rod wide in the garden, for my earliest potatoes and about the middle of June I make a row of hills through the centre and plant Hubbard squashes. I turn the vines away from the hills, and the first potatoes we use are dug nearest the hills. I planted a single row of seven rods long last year, June 26; they covered a strip on which eight rows of potatoes grew, and matured by September 20 so that a frost would not injure them. One of these vines grew in three weeks, 14 feet.—*Cor. Rural New Yorker*

Three years ago Elias Boutlier of Port Williams planted eleven current bushes, and this year picked 100 qts. of superior fruit and sold them at ten cents per quart. Now as 2800 bushes can be set on one acre the yield would be 25,200 qts. worth \$2520. What crop can beat this for profit? a clear profit, above all cost of bushes and labor, of \$2000 in three years.

It is said that the simplest remedy for worms in cattle, sheep, and hogs is turpentine mixed with a little food or given in linseed oil or gruel; two ounces for a cow and one-fourth or less for smaller animals.

THE SMOKER ON A FARM.—If a farmer can have choice between the man who smokes and the one who does not, he cannot afford to hire the smoker. The smoker spends too much time looking for his pipe and tobacco, and firing up when at work, and though he pretends to work and smoke at the same time, the pipe takes most of his attention and the employer's interests suffer. But more than this occurs—smoking makes a man lazy. The first effect is to brace him up a little, but a few moments later it relaxes his sinews, his energies flag, and he feels like crawling under the shade and taking a nap. I know how it is for I am an occasional smoker myself. If I have business on hand I postpone smoking, knowing by experience that smoking unites me for labor, mental or physical.

I did not realize how many times a day my men smoked until I employed them in the office in rainy weather. Some of them could not dispense with smoking from the morning until the noon bell, but wanted to indulge two or three times feeling uneasy under the restraint. I do not doubt these men would smoke six or eight times daily in the fields, and every smoke would entail a loss of ten minutes, say one hour each day, or one day per month—a loss of \$12 for eight months. I assume that the risk of having a smoker about the premises is worth another \$12 per eight months. No matter how careful the men may try to be they are liable to lay the burning pipe or cigar down and forget it until the buildings are in flames, or to drop a match in an absent-minded moment that costs the proprietor several thousand dollars.

Again, I know how it is myself. I am one of the most cautious of men, and never enter barn or shop with lighted cigar, nor light one in the barn. I laid my lighted cigar on a block two rods away, between the barn and a woodshed. Coming out of the barn I was met by some visitors and the cigar was forgotten. We walked down through the berry fields, and when we came back we found people fighting fire. The cigar had been blown off the block. It fell among the dry chips and litter, and we came near being burned out. Smoking is not only a foolish waste of time and money and a source of danger to property; it undermines health, and unless even the occasional devotee is scrupulously neat makes him less companionable. The inveterate, perpetual smoker is a nuisance.—*Country Letter*

SCIENCE.

The oldest and largest tree in the world, so far known, is a chestnut near the foot of Mount Etna. It is hollow and large enough to admit two carriages driving abreast through it. The circumference of the main trunk is 212 feet.

A German, Baron Reichenbach, who has occupied many years in studying the art of bed-making, or rather bed-placing, maintains that improperly placed beds will shorten a man's life. If a mere magnet exercises an influence on sensitive persons, the earth's magnetism must certainly make itself felt on the nervous life of a man. In whatever hemisphere, you should always sleep with your feet to the equator, and let your body lie "true as a needle to the pole."

A very interesting curiosity is shown in a shop window in Pittsburgh. It is a miniature working model of the largest steam hammer in the world—the Cruzot hammer

in France. The model is simply a clock, and the great hammer which in one case weighs a hundred tons, in the other is a pendulum that moves noiselessly up and down. Not a single detail in the great hammer is omitted in the smaller.

A daring landlord in Berlin has introduced paper plates. Bread and butter, cakes, and similar articles are served on these paper-mache plates, which have a border in relief and closely resemble porcelain. The landlord likes them because they are so cheap they can be thrown away after once using, waiters like them for their lightness and because they are neither to be washed or broken, and guests are delighted to take them away as souvenirs.

What is the greatest depth yet reached in sounding the ocean? Lieut. Berryman obtained bottom of 4,580 fathoms a short distance south of the Banks of Newfoundland. The depth of the sea is commonly exaggerated. People used to think that it ranged from 7,000 to 8,000 fathoms. The average depth is 2,500 fathoms in both the Atlantic and the Pacific.

HOUSEHOLD.

That state of life is the most happy where superfluities are not required and where necessities are not wanting.

A nice breakfast for one who is not equal to hearty fare is made of toast and eggs prepared in this way: Put a lump of butter in a saucepan, and then drop three eggs into it, stir briskly and constantly, so that the eggs will be smooth and not lumpy. Have two thin slices of buttered toast ready, and when the eggs are done, lay the other lightly over it; do not crowd it down and make the egg run over the edge of the toast.

JOHNNY CAKES.—One quart of corn meal, two teaspoonsful of salt, and milk enough to make a stiff batter. Shape the cakes in the hand, making them an inch thick; bake them on a griddle; they should be quite brown when done. Split them open and lay a lump of butter inside. Serve hot.

POTATO SOUP.—Peel and slice potatoes, boil them to a mash, rub all through a coarse sieve, and stir them into boiling water to the approved thickness. Add a piece of butter, salt, and chopped parsley, chervil, or any other herb. When taken off the fire, stir in the yolks of a few eggs that have been beaten with a little cream, or milk, and serve with sippets or dice of toasted bread, either in the tureen, or dry.

How to BOTTLE FRUIT.—Take cherries, strawberries, gooseberries, plums or apricots before they are dead ripe, put into large mouth olive bottles, fill all of them up from one of the bottles and when they boil cork tightly, place in a large pan or kettle of cold water with hay between the bottles, and let the water come up to their necks. When the water boils take the kettle from the fire, and let the bottles stand in the water till cool. Then mix two-thirds beeswax with one third tallow; heat together and dip the corks into the boiling mass. Keep in a cool cellar.

VARIETIES.

What is the difference between the North and South pole? All the difference in the world.

Facts that are constantly coming to light—matches.

SHE HAD AN IDEA.—"My dear, we will have cream for breakfast after this," said Mrs. Littlewit, as she poured out the coffee for the head of the house. "No, we won't," growled out the partner of her joys and sorrows. "I pay six cents a quart for chalk and water now, and I won't have any such extravagance."

"But, my love," expostulated Mrs. L. "they are going to make it by machinery and it won't cost so much. I saw it in the paper that they are going to establish a crematory in Waco," and the little lady leaned back in her chair and blinked triumphantly at her lord.—*Texas Lantern*.

A poet's wife, speaking of her late husband, says that the last thing he wrote was his best. She probably referred to his will.

Baby said to his mother, who had false teeth: "Mamma you are very lucky." "Why my dear?" "Because, if all your teeth ache you can pull them out at once."

A celebrated wit was asked why he did not marry a young lady to whom he was much attached. "I know not," he replied, "except the great regard we have for each other."

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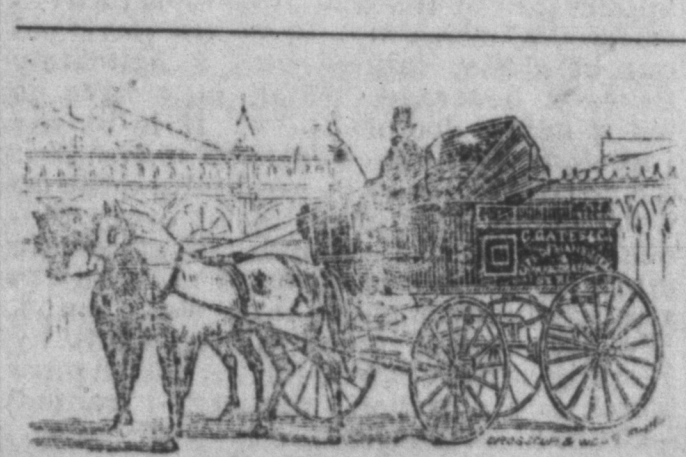
IT IS TRUE!

KIND WORDS. WHAT OTHERS THINK OF BUDS AND BLOSSOMS.—The following is from *The Christian at Work*, a first-class religious weekly, published in New York: "In the City of Halifax, Nova Scotia, is published a monthly magazine called *Buds and Blossoms* and edited by J. F. Avery. Each number contains forty pages, plentifully and handsomely illustrated, and at 75 cents a year is certainly one of the cheapest publications extant. But better still, it is one of the best. Its pages are full of the gospel spirit, excellent temperance sketches, missionary intelligence, short stories, household hints and suggestions, all entertaining clean and wholesome literature, suitable for the home and family circle, and calculated to promote purity and knowledge among its readers. We do not know what the circulation of this excellent publication may be, but of this we are sure, it ought to be double whatever it is, for it is just the right kind of reading to be put into the hands of young folks; bright, cheery, hopeful and strong, without cant or sickly sentimentality. We hold it as an indisputable truism that when an opportunity offers to promote the circulation of such literature among the young it becomes a religious duty to do so. Send to the publisher for a specimen copy, and you'll find that we have not said one-half the good things we might concerning it."

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Mizzpah Cottage, Kempt Road,
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