

PRACTICAL FARMING.

FAIL SEEDING OF TIMOTHY.

No matter what time of year the Timothy is sown one cannot count with absolute certainty of having a good catch every time, writes C. P. Goodrich. If it is sown in the early spring it will be quite sure to come up good, but if the hot, dry weather comes before it has root enough to withstand it, the small, feeble Timothy dies. This I have found to be the case on an average of one year out of three, and a real good stand was not secured only about one year out of two. When the seed is sown in the fall (about the first of September is the best time) on land properly prepared and the seed well covered, the cases of failure are rare. Of course we have had falls when there was just rain enough after sowing to make the seed sprout and come up, and then the weather turned so dry as to kill it. I have had good success in sowing Timothy with rye when the rye was sown early in September, but when sown in October it was a failure. The Timothy came up, but was so very fine and small that the winter freezing killed it. A few years ago I sowed rye on a piece of black, mucky land which was a marsh reclaimed by tile drainage. I sowed on it, after the rye was drilled in, four quarts of Timothy seed and two quarts of Alsike clover seed to the acre and harrowed it over very lightly. This was thick seeding. It came up nicely, but was rather small when winter set in. Early in the spring I examined and found the clover dead. I sowed on another two quarts to the acre of Alsike clover seed about the first of April. I had a splendid stand and for three years a very fine meadow. When I sowed with clover I seed in the spring. If I wish to have Timothy grow with it I usually wait until the fall after, then sow on from two to four quarts of seed to the acre and go over it with a harrow, so as to have it slightly covered. Three different times I have sown clover in the fall with winter grain. Twice it was a failure because the clover was so small when hard freezing came that it was killed. Once it was a success and I had a fine stand. As a result of this experience I have decided to always sow clover in the spring. When I sow Timothy with grain I use a good seed attachment with my grain drill for the purpose, sowing about four quarts to the acre and then harrowing it over lightly.

When Timothy is sown by itself a wheel-harrow grass-seed-sower is used which sows sixteen feet wide and does it very evenly. If one has a field that has been in small grain this year and was not seeded, and which he wishes to get into Timothy as soon as possible, this is the way he should proceed: Prepare the ground nicely the last of August by plowing and harrowing, or disc it up and then harrow. Sow on the Timothy seed, harrow lightly and roll so as to pack the ground and make it smooth. If the season is favorable a pretty fair crop—say two-thirds of a full crop—of hay may be expected next year; and the year after that it will be at its best, producing a full crop. It is not profitable on most lands to let a Timothy meadow run more than three years without plowing up. The second or third year a top dressing of manure will help it wonderfully. The manure should be hauled out right from the stable during the winter and spread evenly over the surface. Early in the spring go over it with a harrow. This will make the manure fine; work up the ground a little around the roots of the grass and mix in manure to some extent. Timothy is an exhaustive crop on the soil and good crops cannot be raised on the same ground many years in succession without applying some fertilizer.

SHRINKAGE OF WOOL.

It is often desirable to know the loss occasioned by shrinkage in handling and storing of wool under varying conditions, and I think an account of an experiment undertaken with this end in view may not be without interest," says a writer in Farm and Home. "Twenty-four fleeces, divided into four lots, were stored, by three different methods, and weighed periodically (generally monthly) for a year. Three lots of the wool were from Shropshire sheep clipped between the 14th and 18th of April. One lot consisting of five fleeces was weighed, each separately, and packed in a clean, dry box, just large enough to hold the wool conveniently, and a close-fitting cover nailed on. Another lot, containing eight fleeces, was weighed in the same manner, sacked and suspended from the ceiling. Another of five fleeces was placed on a shelf and closely covered, so as to exclude all dust and prevent disturbance. On June 24, another lot of six fleeces was secured from a farmer in the neighborhood, weighed, sacked and placed under the same conditions as the other lot of sacked wool. This wool was clipped about June 15th, and the object in securing this lot was to compare the shrinkage of wool clipped later in the season with the early-clipped wool. All of the wool was stored in the same place, a well-ventilated barn, and exposed to a free circulation of air. It was found that there was practically no change of weight in the first three lots clipped in April; in fact, the aggregate weight of the three lots on June 15 was exactly what it was when taken off in April of the previous year. Some variation occurred in the meantime, a few of the changes being hard to account for, but the variation was not great at any time. The late-clipped wool, however, showed a loss of about 6 per cent. of the original weight during the year, and, as the first weight was not taken until a week after shearing, there may have been an additional loss that was not determined. The indications from this investigation are that: First, early-clipped medium wool, from a well flock, free from dirt and stored in good quarters, will not shrink in weight to any appreciable extent within a year from date of shearing. Second, late clipped wool, of substantially the same kind, will, under the same

treatment, shrink about 6 per cent. of its original weight within a year. It is probable that heavy, greasy wool will shrink considerably more than this. Wool dealers state that they can never handle this kind of wool, in the early part of the season without sustaining a heavy loss in weight. Before deciding to hold wool it is well to take into consideration the kind and condition of the clip, and calculate the probable loss from shrinkage."

SUMMER FEEDING OF SWINE.

"A series of green foods can be had in succession on most farms throughout the summer with very little preparation. The clover field supplies the first pasture, and will last in good order until the green peas are ready to feed. It is not well to make sudden changes, as even a pig will get sick if unwisely fed. The new food may be introduced by throwing in the few forkful daily for a week before the permanent change is to be made," says N. Y. Farmer. "If there is then a small field of peas to be fed, the pigs may be turned in at once, or it may be wise to hurdle a plot which can be 'hogged off' thoroughly without any waste. Along with this, if sweet whey or skim milk forms the drink, which should not be fed in a larger quantity than eight pons per day to a full grown hog, steady and profitable growth may be expected. After the pea season has passed, second-growth clover or corn will be on hand to form the bulk of the diet. As finishing time approaches, a grain ration composed of corn, peas, barley or shorts will be profitably fed in conjunction with the green fodder. Fed in this way, the land upon which pork is produced will have gained fertility. Hogs and hog products have been holding their own remarkably well this season. As in days gone by, he is still the 'gentleman that naves the rint.'"

HOW THEY ARE TREATED.

Scant Courtesy Extended European Rulers By Their Subjects.

The loyalty of Englishmen toward their sovereign and the royal family must certainly be a satisfaction to those born in the purple, when they cogitate upon the shabby treatment accorded the reigning monarchs of other countries. A traveler writes of seeing the late King Alfonso of Spain going in state procession.

He was seated in an open carriage, and, although the weather was bitterly cold and the wind piercing, he remained bareheaded during the whole time that the cortege passed along the Puerta del Sol, which was crowded with people, not one of whom appeared to take the slightest notice of His Majesty's salutations. He was bowing from side to side with what seemed at the time a species of appealing expression on his features, as if entreating some response, but not one head was bared among all the immense crowd. Much the same spectacle may be witnessed at Rome nearly every time that King Humbert drives his mail phaeton up to Pincio. He is so accustomed to have the members of the old Roman aristocracy (which constitutes the majority of the afternoon promenaders there) avert their faces when he drives by, on the pretext that their ancestry is infinitely more ancient and more illustrious than that of the House of Savoy, that he always seems quite grateful to anybody who doffs his hat, and if one is at all slow in doing so, he appears to look at you inquiringly, not knowing whether he is going to expose himself to the cot direct.

King Christian of Denmark may be seen nearly any morning when he happens to be in town strolling about the streets of Copenhagen with his two great dogs, generally arrayed in a soft felt hat and an old gray jacket, and relatively unnoticed by his subjects. Indeed, the only people who salute him are the military, the police, and those with whom he is personally acquainted.

A crowned head who often fails to acknowledge popular greetings and obeisances, while at other times he responds to them most graciously, is Emperor William of Germany. He has been seen to ride through the streets of Berlin at the head of one of the guard regiments, entirely insensible, apparently, to the demonstrations of loyalty with which he was greeted on every side. He looked neither to the left nor to the right, but straight ahead, with a face as set and as impassive as that of any Oriental potentate. One crowned head who is keen to notice whether people doff their hats to him or not, is the little King of Spain, of whom it is told that he lost his temper the other day when driving in the Prado, because an old blind man failed to bow to him.

AN INCUBATOR

That Is Used To Hatch Out Microbes For Experimental Purposes.

A firm in Regent street, London, makes a business of hatching out artificially birds, chickens and the like, and the incubators adapted for their various purposes are lined up against the sides of the long room. They also take infants that are prematurely born and by keeping them in a certain unvarying temperature, and giving them proper nourishment, develop them into healthy and lusty babies.

Perhaps the strangest of all their many appliances for hatching living organisms is their biological incubator. Here are "cultivated" whole "colonies" of deadly microbes for purposes of bacteriological investigation and experiment. The cholera bacillus, the scarlet fever micrococcus, the leprosy and tuberculosis bacilli and dozens of other varieties of these pestiferous little organisms propagate themselves in these forcing houses with marvelous rapidity. They are grown on small rod-shaped pieces of gelatine, and a fragment the size of a quarter suffices to maintain a "colony" of 80,000,000 of microbes.

This particular incubator is fastened by two locks of the latest design and most intricate construction; and, in view of the terrible results that might possibly follow from any unauthorized meddling with its greswome contents, the precaution seems a wholly necessary one.

BIRTHDAYS.

Who can say that the practice of "judicial astrology" is obsolete, while a modern American newspaper professes to cast horoscopes for its clients; and, though a sufficient fee is charged for this purpose, the nativity caster is so overwhelmed by applications that inquirers are warned that "delay must sometimes ensue regarding replies in consequence of the large number of letters received?" This modern reader of fate requires to be accurately informed of the exact date, day, and hour, at which his clients first entered this world—for all astrological predictions may be said to center round a question of birthdays. Days of the week, dates of the month, hours of the day, are all credited with benignant or malignant influences over those born at these particular dates. It is curious to note how ancient and widely spread is this superstition. The ideas set forth in the familiar rhymes, "Monday's bairn is fair of face," etc., reflect a fairly universal opinion as to the luck or the reverse which follows birth on certain days in the week. "Sunday's bairn" being in nearly all folklore described as fortunate, while Wednesday's and Saturday's children are considered less happy.

The Anglo-Saxons attached much importance to the age of the moon in determining lucky and unlucky birthdays. Children born on the first day of the moon would live long and be prosperous; while should this date fall upon a Sunday, the infant born under such an auspicious conjunction of circumstances would be the happiest of mankind. To enter life upon the second day of the moon was to insure an early exit from the world. Children born on the fourth day of the moon would be great statesmen, on the tenth great travellers, on the twenty-first bold marauders.

But these superstitions regarding day fatality date back to long before Anglo-Saxon times; we find them firmly believed in the earliest ages; and held, by savage and civilized races, all the world over. We can no more select our day of birth than our day of death, nor ourselves fix the locality for the former event, although tradition has often pointed out certain locales as particularly auspicious for a child's entrance into life. Many a superstitious Lancastrian doubtless blamed Queen Katherine of Valois for the misfortunes which dogged her son, Henry VI., throughout his life; for had not that royal lady, in defiance of her husband's express desire, insisted on "taking to her chamber" at beautiful Windsor, forgetful of the warning prediction: Harry, born at Monmouth, shall live short time and gain all; Harry, born at Windsor, shall live long time and lose all.

A vaticination truly fulfilled in the after careers of Henry VI., and his ill-fated son, who, thanks to his mother's perversity, was born at Windsor.

Birthday congratulations have always been a favorite form of offering flattery, as well as of evincing affection; and if a great personage did not happen to have been born upon a lucky day of the week, it was not obligatory to find some auspicious and redeeming dates regarding the time of his nativity. If the week day was unfortunate, happier auguries might be discovered in the day of the month, or the age of the moon. There is a curious little tractate—reprinted in the "Harleian Miscellany"—written in 1679, on "Day Fatality...with some remarks upon the 14th day of October, being the auspicious birthday of his Royal Highness James, the Duke of York." If the stars spoke truly, never should there have been a less fortunate horoscope than that of James II.—a man luckless throughout life—"but the courtly proverb throves that 'this 14th day of October... hath been lucky, not alone to the Princes of England, but auspicious to the welfare of Europe; and counts up, in Latin and English verses various fortunate historical occurrences, especially to royal personages—which took place upon this date. According to the writer, William the Conqueror gained 'that victory whence he England's scepter took on the 14th day of October; on the same day of the same month Edward III., landed safely in England after being with raging tempests tossed' returning from his conquests in France; and in 1360 the same monarch signed the treaty of peace with the French King on the 14th day of October. On the same date, in 1557, a peace 'much for the saving of the Royal blood' was concluded between the Pope Paul IV., Henry II. of France, and Philip II. of Spain. It would be tedious to follow the writer through his long list of 'auspicious occurrences' which took place upon 'his Royal Highness' happy birthday." Read in the light of later facts, there is something almost sardonic in these confident predictions of prosperity to the Prince who was to be

A mighty pillar of this nation.

A stay of state, a strong supporting prop.

Whose fame will scale the height of heaven's top.

What better things than this can wish From oracles the breath of bliss. This optimist prediction was published in 1679; ten years later the "Prince born in a happy hour" was a discredited fugitive, his own children ranking among his enemies; twenty-three years afterwards he died in exile, the pensioner of strangers.

To King James, birth upon the 14th of the month had certainly not brought the good fortune foretold as sure to follow the accident of his arrival in the world upon a date which, according to this tract, had been fortune "to the children of Israel (alluding to the first Passover) . . . to the Romans and . . . and to many others."

Wisely does the classic proverb bid us call no man happy until his death. Through several pages the seventeenth century writer traces out the associations of various days of the week or month with great men. Many celebrities have died upon one of their birthdays anniversaries; Pompey, Alexander, Elizabeth of York, Sir Kenelm Digby,

being noted among instances of persons to whom

The same day life did give And bid them cease to live. There is a West Country superstition that children born in May, and weaned upon a Good Friday, are always unlucky. An old rhyme regarding the influence exercised upon the coming year by the day of the week upon which Christmas Day falls, states, that when the 25th of December is upon a Monday,

They that be born that day, I ween, They shall be lusty, strong, and keen. Tradition is often an authority concerning birthdays regarding whose date history is silent. We are told, for example, by an old writer that "there are two Mondays in the year on which it is most unfortunate to begin any notable work." These be, first, the first Monday in April, for on that day Cain was born; second, the last Monday in December, for on that day Judas Iscariot was born."

Certain days of the week or month have constantly been marked ones in some persons' lives. Nearly all the chief events of Thomas a Becket's career—including his murder, and the translation of his body—occurred upon a Tuesday. Augustus Caesar received his adoption, began his consulship, conquered the triumviri, and died—all upon a 15th of August. Charles V. gained the victory of Pavia and received the imperial crown on anniversaries of his birthday, the 24th of February. Pope Sixtus V., born upon a Wednesday—a date marked as unlucky by nearly all folkore ("Wednesday's bairn is full of gloom")—received nearly all his promotions upon that date. On Wednesday he was professed a monk; on the same day of the week he was made General of his order; on a Wednesday created a Cardinal, elected and inaugurated as Pope. It has been often noted that Henry VIII. and all his children—Edward, Mary, Elizabeth—expired upon the same day of the week—Thursday; while Saturday has been a marked fatal day to the royal family of England since the time of William III.; many of our sovereigns and their relatives—as the late Prince Consort and the Princess Alice—expiring upon that day of the week. An epitaph in a Shropshire churchyard records that

On a Thursday was she born, And on a Thursday married; On a Thursday broke her leg; And was on Thursday buried.

Weather as well as date was supposed to have influence upon nativities; the reader of omens noted not alone the exact moment of birth, but the conditions of the sky as well as the aspect of the planets.

Full moon and high sea, Great man shalt thou be; Red dawning, stormy sky, Bloody death shalt thou die.

Some years ago, in the Museum at Lewes, Sussex, a horoscope of the last century was preserved among the curiosities; but to judge from the long list of predictions published in each number of the American magazine—these being exclusive of private and higher-priced replies by post—the belief in "day fatality" flourishes strongly in this century; and modern astrologers find patrons as easily as did Nostradamus and Lilly in the days of yore.

ANOTHER RUSSIAN RAILWAY.

That Government Will Build a New Railway in the Caucasus.

From Tiflis it is announced that the Russian Government has finally resolved to build a railway across the main chain of the Caucasus, from Vladikavkaz to Kutais, on the Transcaucasian line. If this report be true, it means that the engineers who last autumn carefully surveyed all possible routes for the contemplated railway have decided in favor of carrying it over the Mamisson Pass, which attains an altitude of nearly 9,500 feet, and rejected the alternative proposal of tunneling the mountain at the head of the famous Duriel Gorge.

To tunnel the Cross Mountain on the more Eastern route would entail an enormous present expenditure; on the other hand, to keep the Mamisson route free of snow for six months of the year will be a most difficult and costly undertaking. It is not probable that any work on a large scale in connection with this railway will be undertaken until the principal difficulties of the Siberian line have been surmounted, as most of the best Russian railway engineers are engaged in Siberia.

HER VISION CAME TRUE.

Her Father Met Death at the Time and in the Way He Saw It.

A few days ago Alex Gindelsberger, a farmer living near Portsmouth, O., was called from his home at night by unknown men and murdered. The night the crime was committed his daughter, Mary, thirteen years old, stayed at the home of William Cook, in Portsmouth. The next morning at breakfast she told of her strange dream. She said that it seemed that some one called her father and that he went outside, where he was murdered. After this she thought that she heard rappings in her room and on the head of the bed, in which she was sleeping. She was so terrified that she covered her head with the bed clothing and went to sleep. She was awakened soon and imagined that a hand touched her and pointed towards where her father was lying dead.

Within an hour after she had finished telling about the dream she received a telegram saying that her father was dead. She afterwards learned that he had been killed as she had seen in the vision and at about the same time.

THEN SHE'S THE RAGE.

Your friend Miss Scriblet is a writer of verse, you say. Is she a poetess of passion? Well, you would think so if you heard her talking to her maid.

ABSENT-MINDED.

That child cried for an hour this afternoon. Why didn't you give it to him? asked the absent-minded father.

THE GOOD USES OF SALT.

It is the Readiest and Cheapest of Remedies for Many Things.

Salt cleanses the palate and furred tongue, and a gargle of salt and water is often efficacious.

A pinch of salt on the tongue, followed ten minutes afterward by a drink of cold water, often cures sick headache.

Salt hardens gums, makes teeth white and sweetens the breath.

Cut flowers may be kept fresh by adding salt to the water.

Weak ankles should be rubbed with solution of salt, water and alcohol.

Rose colds, hay fever and kindred affections may be much relieved by using fine dry salt, like snuff.

Dyspepsia, heart burn and indigestion are relieved by a cup of hot water in which a small spoonful of salt has been melted.

Salt and water will sometimes revive an unconscious person when hurt, if brandy or other remedies are not at hand.

Hemorrhage from tooth-pulling is stopped by filling the mouth with salt and water.

Weak and tired eyes are refreshed by bathing with warm water and salt.

Public speakers and many noted singers use a wash of salt and water before and after using the voice, as it strengthens the organs of the throat.

Salt rubbed into the scalp or occasionally added to the water in washing prevents the hair falling out.

Feathers uncurled by damp weather are quickly dried by shaking over fire in which salt has been thrown.

Salt always should be eaten with nuts, and a dessert fruit salt used should be specially made.

If twenty pounds of salt and ten pounds of muriate of ammonia be dissolved in seven gallons of water and bottled, many fires may be prevented. By splashing and spraying the burning articles the fire is soon extinguished. An incombustible coating is immediately formed.

Add salt to the water in which black and white cotton goods are washed. Fluff irons may be made smooth if rubbed over salt.

Copper and glass may be quickly cleansed by dipping half a lemon in fine salt, then rubbing them over stained objects.

Lemons and salt also remove stains from the fingers. Do not use soap afterwards.

If a small teaspoonful of fine salt be added to a quart of milk it will be preserved sweet and pure for several days. Eggs packed in salt can be kept for several months.

A pinch of salt added to mustard prevents it souring. A smouldering or dull fire may be cleared for broiling by a handful of salt.

Salt thrown on any burning substance will stop the smoke and blaze.

Bread insufficiently salted becomes acid, dry and crumbles.

Bread made with salt water is said to be good in some cases of consumption.

When cabbage, onions or strong smelling vegetables have been boiled in pans, to prevent odors clinging to them, place some salt on the stove and turn the pans bottom up over the salt. In a few minutes the pans will smell sweet.

All salads should be soaked in salt and water to destroy animalculae or small worms.

Make a strong brine and water garden walks to kill weeds. A moderate quantity of salt stimulates their growth.

Salt and camphor in cold water is an excellent disinfectant in bedrooms.

Housemaids should pour salt water, after using it, down the drain pipes. Sewer gas is counteracted by a handful of salt placed in toilet room basins.

Water for laying dust is more effective when salt is added. Sea water is generally used in England coast towns for this purpose.

Rattan, bamboo and basket work furniture may be thoroughly cleaned by scrubbing with brush and salt water. Japanese and plain straw matting should be washed with salt and water and rubbed dry. This keeps them soft and prevents their brittle character where traffic is heavier.

Brooms soaked in hot salt water wear better and do not break.

Bedroom floors may be kept cool and very fresh in summer if wiped daily with a cloth wrung out of strong salt water. All microbes, moths and pests are thus destroyed.

Black spots on dishes and discolorations on teacups are removed by damp salt.

CORRECT HUMAN PROPORTIONS.

Prof. Boofelt says the head, according to correct proportion, should be one-seventh of the body. The distance between the eyes the length of the eye. The distance from the inner angle of the eye to the dividing line of the lips should measure from two and a quarter to two and a half inches. Also, that a man should weigh twenty-eight pounds to every foot of his height.

PEAT AS AN ANTISEPTIC.

Peat enjoys certain antiseptic qualities. A dead body which was buried in this substance for over 100 years was found in a state of good preservation. Peat is used in the northern countries of Europe for surgical bandages, and the favorable results obtained by Russian doctors have induced the French War Office to utilize it in their hospitals.

A BANK 200 YEARS OLD.

The banking firm of Goslings Sharpe, which has been in business in London since 1650, and for the last one hundred years without a change of name, has been consolidated with half a dozen others. It has ledgers dating back to 1715, showing the names of Warren Hastings, Alexander P. C. Lord Clive, Bishop Percy and other noted persons.