

CONTROL OF WEEDS

An Interesting Article on the Forms, Plagues and Tests.
The "Weeds and their Destruction" impresses me as not judiciously treating the subject. It starts with the assumption that "weeds are the greatest pests on the farm." Consider the effect on agriculture had we no plants to grow but the few we wish to cultivate, as grain or grass. Smaller and larger areas are continually being dropped from tillage, and were we without weeds, these areas would soon be denuded and consigned to poverty and desolation.

I prefer to assume that "every creature of God is good," coupling with it the fact of man's obligation "to dress and to keep" his heritage. The plants of our woods and the natural meadows have their appointed bounds. None are allowed to crowd out others; but when the soil is brought under tillage they disappear. The weeds of our cultivated lands have followed civilized man around the world, and it were both reverential and philosophic to find in them not enemies, but friends.

I know not from what part of our country the standard is taken for comparing American with European agriculture. Certainly not from the region embracing southeastern Pennsylvania. Here our general crops average twenty bushels of wheat, fifty of corn and one and one-half tons of hay per acre. Favorable conditions extend these figures to forty bushels of wheat, seventy of corn and above two tons of hay. Potatoes and oats are more dependent upon the season. When our field crops fall below the above average, it is seldom referable to weeds. We sometimes see neglected gardens and truck patches, but a corn field choked with weeds is a very rare sight. The prevailing plant to take possession of our uncultivated grounds is the rag-weed—*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*. This is so tenacious that it would completely occupy our plowed land but for after cultivation. The time to destroy it is soon after the seeds have sprouted. A few strokes with a sharp, light harrow effect this; no patented weeder is needed.

The cultivation with various harrows that destroy the weeds is only what is needed to pulverize the soil; but I have sometimes thought the young plants of our hoed crops would fall of sufficient culture did not the coming weeds hurry on our action. Of course this culture to be effective must have the favoring conditions of drying weather. I can well understand that when clouds and rain are continuous at this time of year the destruction of the weed crop must be a failure.

I suppose that nine-tenths of the total crop of weeds that infest our cultivated ground here is rag-weed. We have several others of simultaneous growth, as chenopodium, amaranth, verbascom, datura, etc., but the timely treatment outlined above suffices for all of them. A few docks, burdocks, Canada thistles, horse nettles, etc., require special treatment. And we have the morning-glory, the abutilon and others, that were left to produce seed in neglected ground, require years of care to germinate and destroy the last of the crop of seeds in the soil. Daisies and carrots would thrive here, but they so readily yield to culture that we have only to put the ground in order and seed it well with grass to keep them out of our pasture and hay.—L. Bolander, in Country Gentlemen.

A Popular Flower.
A magnificent new variety of this popular flower and one of the finest hardy plants ever introduced. It is of vigorous growth, erect, graceful habit, with tall stems, covered with innum-



Campanula.

erable bell-shaped flowers of immense size, and of clear porcelain blue. Of the easiest culture and blooms freely all summer. It is well worthy of high praise.

The Grape Leaf Roller.

This is the larva of a pretty little dark-brown moth. There are two broods each season, one in midsummer and another in autumn. The fact that the larva are rolled up in the grape leaves prevents insecticides from reaching them. Therefore, the only effective remedy is to crush them within their cases, or the cases may be picked off and burned late in autumn before the leaves fall off.

Current Crop of Greece.

The current crop of Greece was 150,499 tons in '96, to which was added 10,200 tons carried over from the previous year. This fruit is marketed largely in the United States, although England is the heaviest buyer.

Europe's Ill-heated Hotels.

Once I nearly froze to death in Naples, writes Jerome Hart in the "Argonaut." Once I piled all my overcoats and rugs and a mackintosh on top of my bed in Athens. And here in sunny Spain I for the first time became cognizant of bed-warmers and warming-pans—objects which hitherto to me had been purely literary. I had read of them in story-books, but supposed they were figments, like the Phoenix and the Dragon. Now I know that they exist, and since I have slept in these shivery Spanish beds, in these vault-like Spanish bedrooms, in these vault-like Spanish hotels, I bless the man who invented warming-pans. As you go along the gloomy corridors of these sepulchral hotels, your footfalls echoing through the arches above you, with a bone-searching cold rising up from the stone floor under you, you see rows of hot-water bags, the coyly clad in red flannel, hanging by the awkward doorknobs of the dumpy Spanish doors. At first you say, "Is this hotel occupied only by invalids?" No—you speedily find that they are not invalids, but that to prevent rigor mortis setting in during the night from the extreme cold, they take hot-water bags to bed with them.

In the larger cities of Northern Europe the landlords have been forced to heat their hotels. They did it reluctantly, but they did it. In London, Paris, Geneva, Lucerne, on the Riviera, and in some Roman hotels you now find central heating systems. Not so in the smaller hotels of Southern Italy, of Spain, of Greece, and of the Levant. There the unfortunate tourists slowly freeze.

So I believe that the North Pole is somewhere around the Mediterranean, and when I look back over the lapse of years to Jimmy Massey and his geographical heterodoxies, I have a fellow-feeling for him.

In some of these hotels you occasionally find a queer stove. It would be amusing—if you did not yourself live in the hotel—to see the miscellaneous way in which the top of the stove is used. Guests come to warm their hands, and go away leaving their gloves on the stove. They set down books, hats, flowers and packages there. In the dining-saloon the waiters put dishes of food on the stove while serving—not to heat them, but using it merely as a table. I have noticed, however, that they never leave the so-called "warm" dishes there—perhaps they fear they might get cold; or then perhaps, on the other hand, they fear they might get hot.

The landlords of these cold hotels display a touching solicitude about the stove. Every man has his weak point. Some millionaires hate to pay for postage stamps. The landlord of a big hotel over here often spends half of his time trying to keep the servants from putting too much fuel on the fire. To prevent Americans and other pyromaniacs from meddling with the fuel they often keep the coal-bin locked. It is a touching spectacle to see a group of Americans shivering around a little stove; to see the servant enter, take out a key, and unlock the coal-bin; to see the freezing Americans grow excited as he puts two or three teaspoonfuls of coal in the stove, and then locks the bin again; to see the gimlet eye of a Granada landlord fastened on him from the office; then to see the hapless Americans sink back into their overcoat collars, and wish they were "back home in God's country."

As an incident of the desperation to which these cold hotels drive people, I once saw in a Levantine hotel an elderly spinster seat herself in front of the stove in the men's smoking-room with her hair down, while an elderly female friend gave her a dry shampoo. To the suggestion of the scandalized servants—Mohammedan males—that she should finish this intimate toilet operation in her own room, she replied briefly that she had found the only warm place in the hotel and she proposed to finish the shampoo there. Which she did.

Surgery Seven Hundred Years Ago.

Surgical operations were performed on the human skull in America two hundred years before the coming of Columbus, says the Toledo "Blade." The work was done in those early days with the aid of shells and flint hatchets. Many skulls have been discovered in Peru which illustrate the methods of these early surgeons. From the appearance of the skull it is also evident that a considerable proportion of those operated upon lived afterward. This trephining was probably performed to save the lives of those who had received a serious wound from a club or a stone. Considering that the surgeons of those early days worked with nothing more effective than sharp shells or flint knives, the work is exceedingly creditable. Human skulls bearing the signs of similar operations also have been found in Europe, dating back to prehistoric times. In the South Sea Islands the operation was often performed with the same primitive implements. The local surgeons not only trephine in the case of fractures, but as a cure for epilepsy and certain forms of insanity. Trephining is also performed in this primitive way even as a cure for headache.

Taken at his Word.

Parson Bleedem—Brother Gotrox, I have called to ask you to subscribe fifty dollars to our missionary fund. Brother Gotrox—Well—er—I'll think it over, and— "Ah, Brother Gotrox, he gives twice who gives quickly, you know." "Does, eh? Well, here's twenty-five dollars quick! Twice twenty-five is fifty, I believe. Glad to accommodate you. Good-day!"

Who loves champagne, southeries, and song Is wise, or else the proverb's wrong; But it is true that love like this Means Paris first—then bow-wow.

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JOS. HEARD.

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C. W. BERGOYNE, R. K.

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THOS. AUSTIN, R. S.

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ter. Open daily, Sundays excepted from 7.30 a. m. to 7 p. m. Mail going south closes at 7.35 a. m. Mail going north closes at 11.25 a. m. Letters for registration must be posted half an hour previous to the time for closing the mails.

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1. A postmaster is required to give notice by letter (returning the paper does not answer the law), when a subscriber does not take his paper out of the office and state the reasons for its not being taken. Any neglect to do so makes the postmaster responsible to the publisher for payment.
2. If any person orders his paper discontinued he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether it is taken from the office or not. There can be no legal discontinuance until the payment is made.
3. Any person who takes a paper from the post-office, whether directed to his name or another, or whether he has subscribed or not, is responsible for the pay.
4. If a subscriber orders his paper to be stopped at a certain time, and the publisher continues to send, the publisher is bound to pay for it if he takes it out of the post-office. This proceeds upon the ground that a man must pay for what he uses.
5. The courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers and periodicals from the post-office, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.