FARM AND GARDEN.

Points that Every Agriculturist Should Know.

ENSILAGE FOR FEED.

Asparagus Culture—Brood Mares—Geranium Growing — Fertilizers — Health-giving Sunflowers—A Lice-Killer—Salt for Horses—The Manure Heap—Other Notes.

Ensilage on Small Farms.

Ensilage would probably be an important article of food on every farm but for the fact that the farmers who own small farms fear the cost of constructing a silo, and labor under the supposition that it is lacking in nutrition. Ensilage is nothing more than green food preserved in a succulent condition by excluding the air (as is done, in a certain degree, with canned goods of all kinds). Ensilage has been preserved in many ways, the farmers of France having simply buried the material in trenches. In this country, where corn can be grown in every section, it is found more economical to use it for ensilage than anything else, but clover or any of the grasses may be put in the silo if preferred. A silo may be a pit, a strong bin or any kind of a receptacle that will sustain great pressure and that is air-tight. A barrel in a hogshead, the barrel surrounded by earth or any material that excludes the air, is one kind of a silo, though a small one, and the corner of the barn or cellar, boxed and made strong and tight, answers the purpose. Or the silo may be a trench in the ground. It is whatever may be used, according to the device of the farmer, providing it answers the purpose intended, whether for preserving large or small quantities of green food. Corn, planted thickly in rows and cultivated until the ears begin to glaze, is used on most farms. It is cut in the fields and the stalks hauled to the barn, where the stalks and ears are passed through a cutter (in the same manner as when cutting cured corn fodder), the stalks being cut into short lengths, the shorter the better, and then packed closely in the silo. When the silo is full heavy weights are placed on the material, in order to firmly press the ensilage into a solid, compact mass. The weights, which may be of stones, or anything suitable, are laid on boards which cover the ensilage. As the contents of the silo begin to settle the weight causes the material on the top to settle down more closely to the lower portions, and all the spaces become filled, until the mass is as compact as if pressed with a mechanical press. Hydraulic presses are sometimes used instead of weights. As ensilage may be grown cheaply it will be found valuable to the farmer in winter, even when he has plenty of hay or grain, as it affords succulent food to stock at a season of the year when dry food only can be obtained. It promotes the thrift of stock and increases the flow of milk in cows by reason of its succulency, and serves a dietary purpose that renders it all the more important. Where properly constructed silos can be built there will be but few opponents to ensilage In fact, opposition to it seems to have ceased, and it only remains for farmers to give it a trial to be convinced of its advantages.

The Culture of Asparagus.

A paper read before the Michigan State Horticultural Society by Charles W. Garfield gives the best practice at the present time for the culture of this table vegetable. The great improvements made by the Argentuil gardeners in France, more than twenty years ago, which have been gradually extending since that time, are fully adopted in substance in this essay, and instead of the four feet distances between the plants, both ways, of the French gardeners, a single row, with the plants three feet apart, extends across the garden. Five feet being allowed on each side, a strip of land ten feet wide is given to the row. A large crop of some other vegetable may occupy a portion of this strip. The plants in a few years will form crowns a foot in diameter, with shoots an inch or more in diameter. This accords with our own experiments. For planting, a wide and deep trench is plowed, so that when covered the crowns of the plants will be six inches below the level of the surface. The depth will admit plowing over them in either direction. Clean cultivation is to be given, instead of the commonly recommended application of salt. As the plantation will last half a century, care should be taken that the work be well done at the commencement. Mr. Garfield has used the refuse salt from a hide-packing establishment, the large amount of contained animal matter adding to its efficiency—the more the amount of the animal matter and the less of salt, the better. One of the best fertilizers is barn manure. Two years are required from the planting to the first moderate picking. A knife should not be used for collecting the shots, but they should be broken off with the hand.

Among the enemies of this crop the cutworm is reduced in numbers or destroyed by clean and continuous cultivation in spring, and by autumn plowing.

Value of Good Brood Mares.

Good brood mares are a fortune on the farm. Keep all the good mares and continue to grade up, that each succeeding generation will be better bred and raise better colts. The mares can do the farm work and raise valuable colts, while a gelding or a male is a useless expense on a farm. When all our farms are stocked with brood mares and greater care given to breeding the better class of horses farming will be more profitable, for there is no product of the farm that sells for better money than good horses, and the brood mares work for their keep besides.—*Western Agriculturist.*

Cultivating Geraniums.

Geraniums must have any leading shoots cut back to make them throw out laterals. Verbenas should be pinned down until they have covered the bed, and any faded flowers or rusty leaves should be removed. A bed of Verbenas should be kept very free from weeds. Coleus being grown for their color, massiveness and evenness of surface must be aimed at, and any shoots that show a tendency to run beyond the others must be pinched back severely. The more pinching a coleus receives the better it will look.

Fertilizers for the Farm.

The value of manure or fertilizers depends not only upon the amount of plant food they contain but also upon the kind and quality. Commercial fertilizers contain plant food in a concentrated form, while manure contains nearly the same substances in a bulky condition, and they may be nearly alike in composition or vary widely. Every pound of available plant food in a ton of manure can be duplicated by the chemist, and in smaller bulk.

Sunflowers Healthy.

Sunflowers planted about a drain or on portions of land from which impurities arise will absorb noxious gases, and thereby prove very beneficial to the health of the people about. Besides being useful, those plants are exceedingly ornamental if arranged to from a dense bank. At the rear plant a row of the "New Primrose" variety, next a row of the ball-shaped kind known as *globosus*, then a row of the California, and lastly a row of "Miniature" sunflowers.

How to Kill Lice.

The *Rural New Yorker* has never found anything better to kill lice on cattle than tobacco water, to which a little sulphur has been added. Keep the tobacco and sulphur in water near the boiling point for twelve hours, stirring it occasionally. Apply the decoction to the poll of the head, along the top of the neck and spine, on the brisket and under the legs. Of course the animals must be kept in a warm place when treated in this way.

Salt for Horses.

A piece of rock salt should always be kept in the box of the manger, so that the horse may lick it whenever his appetite prompts him. Salt is as necessary for animals as it is to human beings, and this way of administering it is far preferable to the universal practice of putting a handful once or twice a week in soft feed. In following his instincts the horse will take neither too much nor too little and will get it just when he desires it and needs it most.

Look after Hoed Crops.

No farmer can afford to neglect the cultivation of his hoed crops. It pays to begin early in the season to do the work thoroughly and to cultivate often. Such a course will cause the plants to grow more rapidly, hasten the maturity of the crop, and caused a marked increase in the yield. It will also destroy the weeds, and thus tend to get the land in good condition for sowing when the hoed crop has been removed.

The Manure Heap.

The farmer's progress may be judged by his manure heap. The careful and judicious farmer takes advantage of every opportunity, not only to have and save as much manure as possible, but he aims to prevent loss of volatile matter in that which he has accumulated. Upon the management of the manure heap depends the profit or loss.

To Cool Cream In Churn.

The temperature when churning is about sixty-three degrees, though some churn a degree or two higher or lower, according to conditions. To cool the cream in the churn apply ice or cold water on the outside of the churn, or cool it in can before churning instead of adding cold water to the cream.

Hints and Helps.

The "points" for a Jersey cow are now merged into one test: How much butter can she make.

Butter commands a higher price than any other product of cattle used for food purposes in proportion to its bulk.

Peonies in large clumps should be divided and new varieties set out as soon as the weather allows.

Do not sow small seeds too deep in the ground. One of the many causes of the failure of carrot and parsnip seeds to push through the ground is that too much earth is placed on them. The lightest of covering will answer.

Never keep a poor milker as long as there is a possibility of getting something better. Is is just as important to replace a poor cow with a better one as it is to get rid of a balky horse for one more serviceable.

Sheep are also used as dairy animals in some countries. The celebrated Rochefort cheese is made from the milk of sheep, and in many portions of Canada sheep are regularly milked, and profitably.

Milk from cows that have recently calved is usually ropy, yet it is frequently mixed in the can with the milk of other cows. Ropy milk is not in a proper condition to be used as food.

The bronze gobbler should be used for improving the flock of turkeys. May is an excellent time for hatching young turkeys, as they will thrive better than when hatched earlier.

The large Lima bean has been made to assume the bush habit, and this will greatly aid in the annual production of a larger crop for consumption.

Salt is frequently applied to asparagus beds, but soapsuds are better. Celery is also benefited by liberal applications of soapsuds.

Peas and oats are sometimes sown together, and cut as green food for the cows as soon as the seed pods of the peas are formed.

To make new ropes pliable before using them in the stables boil them and then dry them in the sun.

Early turnips may be planted this month for table use, but the main crop should be later.

People Who Exist on Pills.

Recent investigation has shown that the people of Great Britain swallow over 5,500,000 pills daily, or one pill a week for every person in the population. The pill consumption for one year would weigh 178 tons, and would fill 36 freight cars, which it would take two powerful locomotives to pull. Placed in a row the pills would reach nearly 6,500 miles, or from Liverpool to New York and back again.

Mrs. Humphry Ward's new book deals with a young man who settles down to the quiet contentment of the Elsmere brotherhood after tiring of the fads and crazes of the thought of life and finding them of the indistinct order.

—May is one of the dullest months for wedding-cake sales.

KEMMLER MUST DIE.

The Only Question Now is Who Will Execute Him.

A Washington despatch says regarding the Kemmler case: The court says it is urged in Kemmler's behalf that the 14th amendment is a prohibition on the State of the imposition of cruel and unusual punishment. The origin of the phrase, the court said, was in the English Act of Settlement of 1688, and meant that barbarous methods of punishment should not be inflicted. It meant that a man should not be sentenced to death by torture, but did not mean that the death penalty itself was cruel. The change in form of death was within the legitimate sphere of the legislative power of the State. The Legislature of the State of New York determined that it did not inflict cruel and unusual punishment, and its courts have sustained that determination. This court cannot see that the prisoner has been deprived of due process of law. In order to reverse the judgment this court would be compelled to hold that the Court of Appeals had committed an error so gross as to deprive the prisoner of his constitutional rights. The court has no hesitation in saying it cannot do this.

An Albany despatch says: The next step to be taken in the courts in the Kemmler case will be the argument of the appeal from the decision of County Judge Corlett, of Cayuga county, denying a writ of *habeas corpus*, asked for on the ground of the unconstitutionality of the power conferred on Warden Durston in the execution of criminals, which power is claimed to be vested in the sheriff of the county wherein the conviction is had. The appeal will come up before the General Term at Buffalo June 3rd. This appeal does not affect the death penalty itself, or the crime, or manner of the execution, and it is expected the General Term will dispose of it in time to allow it to be carried to the Court of Appeals at Saratoga June session. Another issue in the case will be the request for Judge Wallace to vacate the writ to *habeas corpus* granted by him at Syracuse, but on the condition that he would revoke the writ in case the United States Supreme Court denied Lawyer Sherman's application for a writ of error. This writ is returnable before Judge Wallace at Canandaigua June 17th.

Blood in the Body.

The amount of blood in the body is one-thirtieth the weight of the body, or five or six quarts, or eleven or twelve pounds. The average man dies when he has lost one-fifth of his blood. The heart with each contraction ejects six ounces of blood from each ventricle, at a pressure in the left ventricle of one-fourth of an atmosphere. The heart sends all the blood around the body of the average man once every thirty seconds, or in about thirty-five contractions of the organ. A deadly poison injected into the veins kills in fifteen seconds on the average; injected under the skin in about four minutes. A cubic millimeter of blood contains 5,000,000 blood cells in the average man, and about 4,500,000 in the average woman. There are 300 red cells to every one white blood cell. The red cells have an average diameter of 1-3200 of an inch, the white cells of 1-25000 of an inch. The specific gravity of blood is 1.055. The frequency of the pulse in the new born is 150; in infants 1 year old, 110; at 2 years, 95; from 7 to 14, 85; in adult man, 75; woman, 80. The respirations are one-fourth as rapid as the pulse.—*St. Louis Republic.*

First Glass Factories in America.

The first glass factory in what is now the United States was erected in the year 1609 near Jamestown, Va., and the second followed in the same colony twelve years later. In 1639 some acres of ground were granted to glassmen in Salem, Mass. The first glass factory in Pennsylvania was built near Philadelphia in 1683 under the direction of William Penn, but it did not prove successful. The first west of the Alleghanies was set up by Albert Gallatin and his associates, in 1785, at New Geneva, on the Monongahela river. A small factory was established on the Ohio river, near Pittsburg, in 1790, and another in 1795. The earlier attempt failed, but the last was quite successful. In 1810 there were but twenty-two glass factories, with an output of less than $1,500,000 annually. At the present time there are hundreds of factories, which yearly put over $100,000,000 worth of glassware on the market.—*St. Louis Republic.*

How They "Remove" Them.

The following table shows the standing of the different countries of the globe today on the capital punishment question:

Australia	The gallows
Bavaria	The guillotine
Belgium	The guillotine
China	The sword and cord
Denmark	The guillotine
France	The guillotine
Hanover	The guillotine
Holland	The gallows
Morocco	The sword
Portugal	The gallows
Switzerland	The sword and guillotine
Spain	The garrotte
Prussia	The sword
Russia	Musket, knout and gallows
Turkey	Sword and bowstring
Japan	The sword
Siam	Elephants, fire and sword
India	Gun and gallows
Java	The sword

Talk is Not Expensive.

"Doolittle is a very eloquent man. You know he stumped the agricultural districts for Harrison and Protection. He did splendid work in the campaign, and his speeches tickled the farmers."

"Yes; I know that. But how did he make all his money? He's very rich."

"Oh, he made most of it by 10 per cent. loans on farm mortgages."

She Couldn't Get Him to Treat.

Mary Jane (while passing the ice-cream parlor)—Oh, I feel so thirsty and hot that I am almost fainting

John Henry—Well, let us take a turn through the park. We can get a nice cool drink at the fountain and then we can sit in the shade for a while.

—A baked haddock should be stuffed with the same herbs and things as a chicken.

A French mechanic by the name of Bollie has inventer a calculating machine which adds, multiplies, and divides with astonishing rapidity by the simple turning of a wheel.

Saved by a Dog.

About 4,000 anecdotes have been published under the above title, in which dogs have figured in preserving human life. We had a dog once noted for saving things, but there wasn't a life among them. He kept the things he saved under the summer kitchen, and his hiding place wasn't discovered for a long time; not, indeed, until it became necessary to tear up the kitchen floor to find a good place to deposit chloride of lime during a cholera season; then we found what had been "saved by a dog."

There were a couple of kittens, a cat, two or three rats and chicken, all very dead; a large assortment of bones, the remnants of an ottoman, for the theft of which the best hired girl we ever had was discharged; a tomato can, a couple of teaspoons, a torn volume of Hoyle's games, an old hoopskirt, a canary bird, a nutmeg grater, a plaster of Paris pigeon and a cook book. It is rarely that there is so much saved by a dog, for they are generally improvident.—*Texas Siftings.*

Rules for Care of the Brain.

First, systematic exercise and regular employment. The brain stands most abuse of any organ in the body. Its best tonic and stimulant is success. The worst and most depressing thing to it is failure. The most injurious effects come by using stimulants in early life; young people should use no liquor, tea or anything of this sort. They act mostly on the brain and injure its growth very materially. Abundance of sleep is necessary. I am inclined to think eight hours is not more than enough. Sleep is the time of relatively lowered expenditure and increased repair. Learn to think straight and allow no morbid fancies to remain in your mind. They soon get an obstinate foothold and are hard to remove, and may make your whole life unhappy.—*Dr. M. L. Holbrook.*

Spontaneous Combustion of Man.

Dickens has been very much criticised for his apparent acceptance of the fact of human spontaneous combustion, but the late Sir William Gull testified to a surprising case before the committee of the House of Lords on intemperance during the summer of 1886. A large, bloated man, who was suffering from difficulty of breathing and great distension of the venous system, died at Guy's hospital. At the post mortem of the following day there was no sign of decomposition, but the body was distended with what was thought to be gas.

"When punctures were made into the skin," said Sir William, "and a lighted match applied, the gas which escaped burned with the blue flame of carburetted hydrogen. As many as a dozen of these little flames were burning at one time."—*St. Louis Republic.*

Confess Him Before Men.

The following will appear in Henry M. Stanley's paper in "Scribner" for June "Constrained at the darkest hour to humbly confess that without God's help I was helpless, I vowed a vow in the forest solitudes that I would confess His aid before men. Silence, as of death, was round about me; it was midnight; I was weakened by illness, prostrated by fatigue, and wan with anxiety for my white and black companions, whose fate was a mystery. In this physical and mental distress I besought God to give me back my people. Nine hours later we were exulting with a rapturous joy. In full view of all was the crimson flag with the crescent, and beneath its waving folds was the long-lost rear olumn."

Read Latin and Greek at Four.

Connop Thirlwall, afterward Bishop of St. David's, could read Latin when 3 years old, and at the age of 4 read Greek with an ease that astonished all who heard him. At 7 he composed an essay, "On the Uncertainty of Human Life," which was afterward printed in his "Primitiæ," or "First Fruits," published when the boy was only 11 years old. The history of literature perhaps does not contain the name of another whose first book was publishen when the writer was not yet in his teens. This book contains about forty sermons, together with several essays and poems.—*New York Ledger.*

He Had a Long Memory.

At a recent examination of the divinity students in England, one very dull candidate was so ignorant that the bishop would only consent to ordain him on condition that he would promise to study "Butler's Analogy" after ordination. He made the promise and was ordained. He was the guest of the bishop, and so on his departure next morning the bishop shook him by the hand, saying: "Good-bye, Mr. Brown; don't forget the Butler." "I haven't, my lord," was the unexpected reply; "I have just given him five shillings."—*New York Tribune.*

Varieties of Kisses.

According to *America* there are eight sorts of kisses mentioned in the Bible, viz:

Salutation in I. Samuel, xx., 41.
Valediction in Ruth, i., 9.
Reconciliation in II. Samuel, xiv., 33.
Subjection in Psalms, ii., 12.
Approbation in Proverbs xxiv, 26.
Adoration in I. Kings, xix., 18.
Treachery in Matthew, xxvi., 49.
Affection in Genesis, xlv., 15.

The Largest Englishman.

Thomas Congley, of Dover, England, is said to be the heaviest of her majesty's many subjecs. He is an intelligent and respectable citizen, 42 years old, having been born (of parents not above the normal size) in 1848. As a baby he was considered small and not over healthy. His present weight is 40 stone (560 pounds); height, 6 feet ¾ inch; measurement of waist, 80 inches, and of legs, 25.—*St Louis Republic.*

For the Spec.

Teacher—And now, children, you have heard the story of Ananias. What lesson should we learn from his fate?

Tommy—Never to get caught.

Stanley's chosen bride was the subject of the famous painting "Yes or No?" And it happened oddly that he didn't get the "Yes" until his second proposal.

—A skirt-lifter for muddy crossings is out.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

An earthquake shock occurred at Billings, Mont., on Friday.

Attempts are being made in New York to revive the old American Salt trust.

John G. Carlisle is to take Senator Beck's place on the Senate Finance Committee.

It is believed the German Army Bill will be passed in the Reichstag by a vote of 245 to 152.

Emperor William will start for Peterhof August 14. He will be the guest of the Czar about ten days.

Dobson Brothers' store and other shops and offices in Bowmanville suffered from fire yesterday morning.

Herr Richter estimates that the German peace effective will before long be 614,000 men instead of 468,000.

M. Sautereau is said to have cabled to Panama that he has contracted for the completion of the canal in ten years.

The Duke of Connaught and party arrived at Banff, N. W. T., on Saturday afternoon, and left there at noon yesterday.

Prince William of Saxe-Weimar has been declared a bankrupt. His debts, chiefly due to gambling, amount to 243,000 marks.

The negotiations between England and Germany regarding territorial rights in East Africa are not making satisfactory progress.

Chancellor von Caprivi is favorable to a continuance of the English occupation of Egypt as essential to the prosperity of that country.

There is said to be a conspirac , with its centre in Berlin, for the organization of a rising against Russia in the Baltic provinces.

The Bianchi Company's sugar storehouses at Cardenas, Cuba, have been burned. The company has an insurance of $340,000.

Emperor William, as if desiring to mark the strength of the *entente* with England, celebrated the Queen's Birthday with unusual effusiveness.

The Italian Government has appointed a commission to enquire into the Ravenna riots, during which a number of peasant women were killed.

The Turkish officer and five students who insulted two Russian ladies in Constantinople have been sentenced to six months' imprisonment with perpetual banishment to Tripoli.

Rev. Father Stephen M. Barrett, of Chicago, who was shot on the steps of his church on Friday evening by a maniac named Patrick Keady, died on Saturday morning.

Marquis Ungaro and Count d'Arco fought a duel Saturday with swords, at Rome. The count was wounded in the right hand. The affair was the result of a political quarrel.

It is stated Emperor William is highly incensed because Prince Bismarck has allowed himself to be interviewed by foreign correspondents. His Majesty says the Prince is only fit for a lunatic asylum.

Charles Shellington, laborer, St. Thomas, fell from a scaffold to the ground, a distance of eighteen feet. He was unconscious for an hour and is seriously injured internally, though no bones are broken.

The body of an unknown man was found floating in the river yesterday below Longue Pointe. It does not correspond with that of anyone missing the past few months, and the police are wholly without a clue.

The burial ground of the Indians of North British Columbia, that is the forest where they hang up the bodies of their dead, has been destroyed by fire, and the natives are terribly incensed against the whites.

The British freight steamer Bayswater, Capt. Taylor, which left New York March 16th for Lisbon, is reported as missing. The Bayswater was owned by E. H. Watts, of London. She was of iron, and had a crew of thirty men.

It is stated that the Czar has declared that in the event of a Franco-German war he will not on any account interfere by force of arms, and that he will neither attack Germany himself nor enter into alliances with France.

A young man about 22 years of age, named James Heale, a West Toronto Junction grocer, whose parents reside in Goderich, was struck on Saturday morning by a train and instantly killed. The accident happened between High Park and the rolling mills. The body will be sent to Goderich for burial.

Saturday night Detective Slemin, Toronto, arrested James McGinn, son of the late James McGinn, Adelaide and Bay streets, on the serious charge of seducing and abducting Nellie Howell, aged 15, daughter of Mr. Howell, who keeps a barber shop near the corner of Bay and Adelaide streets. McGinn is a married man, and it is charged that he took the girl to a certain well-known boarding house on Lombard street.

Mr. Michael Davitt has written a letter in which he expresses disgust at the treatment which a number of tenant farmers in Ireland accord to laborers in their employ. The Ashbourn Act, he says, has implanted in the farmers even more than the usual selfishness, and an attempt to settle the land question by transferring the ownership of land from the landlords to the farmers would only perpetuate and intensify agrarian discontent.

The Holy Kiss.

Elder Ludwig, pastor of the Christian church at Whitewater, was observed to kiss one of the lady members of his congregation good-bye in the presence of her husband on the public street, and the gossiping was severe. On the following Sunday he discussed the subject of kissing in his pulpit, and explained that the kiss given the lady was of friendship, a sort of holy kiss, and that in all his life he had kissed but five women. After the close of his sermon, he called for a rising vote of his congregation on the sinfulness of his kissing, and the audience arose en masse and voted him innocent of sinful osculation.—*Indianapolis News.*

—A pint of cream poured over a shad that is baking contributes much to its success.