AGRICULTURAL.

Detasselling Corn.

As has already been noted in this journal the Ohio experiment station has been investigating the effects of cutting off the tassels of corn to ascertain how the crop was affected thereby. In the experiment the tassels were removed from alternate rows in the same field, and as a general result it may be stated that the yield of the rows from which the tassels were removed was fifty per cent. greater than that of the rows permitted to grow in the usual way. The theory of this result is, first, that in the economy of nature, pollenization being left to accident, pollen is produced far in excess of what would be the necessity for it were it all utilized for the purpose of fertilization; and, second, that there is a fixed amount of vitality or strength in a given stalk of corn, and that if a portion of this is employed in the production of unnecessary pollen, just so much is diverted from the production of grain. As is well known, no process in nature is more exhaustive or causes a greater drain upon the vital power than the production of the fertilizing principle, and this is true both in the animal and vegetable kingdoms. In stock and poultry growing the truth finds practical recognition in the practice of castrating and caponizing animals and fowls intended for fattening. The Ohio experiment is merely an extension of the principle to the vegetable world and a recognition of the truth that the production of corn pollen in excess of the needs of a given field is at the expense of the corn production.

We venture to suggest that it would be a good idea for some of our wide-awake readers of an investigating turn of mind—farmers who want to learn themselves and who desire to advance the interests of agriculture—to try the experiment this year under ordinary farm conditions by removing the tassels from alternate rows of corn and keeping a careful record of the result. What it is desirable to ascertain in this connection is, first, whether under the usual conditions of farm culture an appreciable increase of the detasseled corn over that beside on which the tassels are allowed to remain, may be relied on, and, second, what proportion of the stalks in the field can be detasseled without reducing the supply of pollen below the quantity required by the field. The Ohio experiment shows a gain of fifty per cent. in the yield of detasseled over tasseled stalks. It would therfore be advantageous to extend the gain to the largest number of stalks possible consistent with full fertilization of the field.

Invention and manufacture never fail to respond to demand. The corn planter and the check rower are their response to the special requirements of prairie corn culture. Reapers and mowers are begotten of the demand created by broad, level fields free from obstructions. Twine binding devices result from immense wheat areas whose cultivation would be difficult, if not impossible, were it not for this aid at a critical point in the harvesting of the crop. In like manner let it be fully demonstrated that detasselling a given proportion of a corn field is followed by a sufficiently remunerative increased yield, and invention and manufacture will follow close on the demand with a machine that will accomplish the result cheaply with horse power.

Moisture and Manure.

From the earliest ages farmers have everywhere recognized the fact that their success depended more on abundant rains or else on irrigation to furnish moisture than on any other one cause. It is quite common to say that manure is the farmer's mainstay. Fertility is, of course, a necessity, but even plant food, unless in condition to be appropriated by crops, availeth nothing. The only way that crop can feed through theirs roots is by having plant food in solution with water. A solid mass of manure, however much fertility it may contain, is an obstruction and injury rather than a benefit. Manure may in excess kill the plants to which it is applied, and it does this more often than in any other way by absorbing the moisture which the plants need.

All stable manure is so largely composed of carbon that it will absorb a great deal of water without giving any of it out unless pressed. If the manure ferments in the soil it becomes moist, but it is from water that air or soil has furnished. Often when applied late in spring it does not ferment during the summer, and especially if it is so coarse and strawy that it contains a considerable amount of air. It requires really an enormous amount of water to make coarse manure applied early in the spring available the first season, especially as it is generally dried out by exposure to the air before being plowed under the furrow. Take one of these coarse, dry clods of manure and drop water slowly upon it until it is thoroughly saturated and moist on the under side Anyone who has not tried this will be surprised at the amount of water a single clod of manure two inches square will absorb. Now suppose this manure is turned under five or six inches of soil. Begin to sprinkle a foot square of newly plowed land, and if done slowly so that none runs off, an inch depth of water will scarcely wet down two or three inches. In other words, a full inch of water might fall, and a top-dressing of dry stable manure plowed under five or six inches deep would not get from the rain a particle of moisture to make its fertility available.

Herein consists, as we believe, the enormous advantage of top-dressing early in spring, or even during the winter. A fresh top-dressing is not pressed down into the soil, and quickly dries both below and above. The earlier top-dressing has been beaten down into the soil by rains, and its virtues have been soaked out of it by melting snows. The soil beneath a winter top-dressing is always moist. So also is generally the lower half of the manure itself. It is thus in condition to ferment as soon as turned under, and thus draw some moisture from the air, especially if the soil is kept well cultivated above. Often, indeed, if the manure is spread early in the winter, it is saturated several times before spring, and its soluble parts are incorporated in the soil, where alone they can do much good. The root of no plant will penetrate even a small clod of fresh manure. What it gets is from particles of plant food that have been detached from the manure clod. Hence it is extremely important to make the manure whenever applied as fine as possible, that thus a greater proportion of it may be exposed to feeding the roots of crops.

The Coarser Wools.

The bulk of the coarse wool of commerce is clipped from breeds which have been for centuries similar to what they are to-day, because they have been raised by the farming population of the Orient, who are the most unprogressive of all Caucasian people. Some breeds in the East are noted for the immense size to which the tail is developed. Herodotus tells us that the people of that country placed little two-wheeled carts at the service of these fat-rumped sheep for the purpose of carrying the immense tail. Oriental writers inform us that it is the custom to this day. Fat meat being more highly prized than lean, a portion of the tail is considered a great delicacy. The bulk of the carpet wools imported into this country come from Russia and are grown on Dionskoi sheep. The wool is hairy, coarse, and about five inches long. The sheep seldom yield more than one and one-half to one and three-quarter pounds of wool in the dirt. The shrinkage in scouring is the least of any breed, being as low as ten to sixteen per cent. The wool grown on the native sheep of India is also very coarse. The highest grades of carpet wools comes from Great Britain and South America. In Great Britain the carpet wool is grown on the Scotch Highland Black-Faced and the Welch Mountain sheep, and is mainly unfit for any other purpose than the manufacture of carpets and the coarser rugs and robes. The introduction of Merino rams into South America is improving the grade of the wools from the province of Cordova until the majority of the wool from that country is now above the grade of carpet wools, and the fleeces from that country will steadily improve until little or no coarse wool is grown there.

"Come up Higher."

A celebrated lawyer once advised a young aspirant that there was "room at the top" in the profession, and the saying might be well paraphrased and applied to all kinds of farm production. The top is where whatever of profit there is in farming is to be found. Stock growers have learned the lesson pretty well that "early maturity" is essential to profitable marketing and that they cannot afford to board and lodge a hog or steer an extra six months or a year just for the sake of having his company. Eighty bushels of corn raised on one acre of ground takes less plowing, harrowing, seeding, fencing, harvesting, interest, taxes, etc., than does eighty bushels on two acres, and therefore a larger portion of the value of the crop is profit. The most generally successful corn growers are those who never let the ground rest from the time the seed is in until the corn is so big that they can no longer get into it, and this thorough cultivation implies that two acres should never be seeded when the labor available to cultivate it could have been put on one. To feed, milk and care for the cows that only do as much work when brought to the crucial test of the churn that one good milker will do is manifestly a waste of feed and labor, and yet many farmers are guilty of it, although it is a point which the growing use of milk testing apparatus is impressing upon the owners of dairy cattle to an extent undreamed of only two or three years ago. The farmer who has but a single mare or team of working mares is growing more and more particular as to the horse he breeds to, because he realizes that while there are colts and colts, the good ones cost no more to raise than the scrubs, and they will return a profit when the scrubs will net a loss. All along the line and in all kinds of products "room at the top" is becoming recognized as the rule, and those who learn it latest and apply it least broadly are lucky. The constant effort should be to "come up higher."

Have you Learned to Walk?

Americans are bad walkers, says a writer in the New York *World*. It is rare to find an exception, even in our army. Among Europeans, and the aborigines of our own continent, a noble mien is not uncommon. I understand the causes of this ugly defect among our people, and my present purpose is to call attention to it, and to point out the remedy.

In English and French books on the military drill and physical training whole chapters discuss the subject of walking. We are told that this or that part of the foot must touch the ground first—that the angles must be so and so, etc. I will not say this advice is not right, but I will say that very few have been helped by it.

Look at a good walker. Shoulders, head and hips drawn well back and the chest thrown forward. What a firm, vigorous tread! Such a walk may easily be secured by carrying a weight upon the head. An iron crown has been devised for this purpose. It consists of three crowns one within the other, each weighing about nine pounds. One or all three may be worn at a time.

The water-carriers of Southern Europe, although belonging to the lowest class, have a noble bearing. Certain negroes in the South, who "tote" burdens upon the head as a business, can readily be pointed out in a crowd. The effort required to keep the burden directly over the spine so develops the muscles of the back and neck that in the absence of the burden, the head is carried in a noble, erect attitude.

By carrying one of these crowns upon the head half an hour two or three times a day while walking in the garden or through the halls of the house, one may soon become a fine walker. One-tenth of the time occupied in learning a few tunes on the piano, given to this exercise, would insure any girl a noble carriage. The crown is not necessary. Any weight which does not press upon the very crown of the head, but about it, will answer the purpose equally well.

Hard to Get.

Doctors are sometimes more considerate of their patients needs than they are of their circumstances. It is easier to prescribe a journey to Europe or Bermuda than it is to fill the prescription.

A genteman whose affairs had become very much embarrassed, and who was overworked and overworried, went to a celebrated specialist, broken down with nervous exhaustion.

"Now," said the docter, "there is only one thing that you must have; that is, absence of worry, absence of care, and freedom from all preoccupations."

"Much obliged for your prescription," said the gentleman, "but you've left out one important thing in it."

"What is that?"

"You haven't put in the apothecary's street and number!"

TIT BITS.

Cold Comfort.

A couple from the humbler walks of life came before a justice of the peace to be married, when, the ceremony being over, the bride began to weep copiously.

"What's the matter?" asked the new husband.

"I never told you that I don't know how to cook," sobbed the bride.

"Don't fret. I'll not have anything to cook. I'm a poet."

A Moral Certainty.

Caraway—Five years from now, old man, you won't find any liars among the Indians.

Hooks—What makes you think so?

Caraway—Why, by that time the government won't allow what is left of them to retain even a mental reservation.—[Wasp.

Covering it Up.

"You bad boy, you have made a grease spot on the new sofa with your bread and butter," said Mrs. Fizzletop to her son Johnny.

"Never mind, ma, you can sit on it when there is company in the parlor."

He Had Heard the Lecture.

"Then when you have finished your lecture," said the professor of elocution and deportment to young Dulle, "bow gracefully and leave the platform on tiptoes."

"Why on tiptoes?" queried Dulle.

"So as not to wake the audience," replied the professor.

Too Much of a Free-Thinker.

Resident—"You're looking rather blue, Ebenezer; what's the matter?" Rev. Ebenezer Shadbone—"I'se in trouble, sah. I preached a sermon last Sunday agin chicken stealin', an' the congregation am gwine to try me for heresy, sah."

A Fable With an Application.

A swallow flew down and plucked a small piece of wool from the back of a sheep. The sheep were very indignant and denounced the swallow in scathing terms.

"Why do you make such a fuss?" asked the swallow. "You never say anything when the shepard takes all the wool you have on your back?"

"That's a different thing entirely," replied ed the sheep, "if you knew how to take my wool without hurting me, as the shepherd does, I would not object so much."

This fable is merely intended to explain why millions can be stolen with impunity, while the theft of a pair of boots, or a loaf of bread is punished with such severity.

Sunshine.

Clara—Darling, have you seen your father?

Charles—Yes, and he gave me a cool thousand.

"How lovely; everything is brighter now."

"Of course it is. Brightness is sure to follow the raise of the son."

Youth In Old Age.

"That's a pretty old alligator, I guess," remarked one tourist to another as a huge cayman opened his cavernous jaws and took in a young darkey that had recklessly ventured into the river.

"He may be old," returned the other," but he's evidently got a good deal of the boy in him yet."

A Reminiscence of Artemus Ward.

Artemus Ward and a friend were once traveling through Lower California and were compelled one night to put up at a ramshackle hotel It was cold enough to freeze the nose off a brass monkey and to add to the refrigerating atmosphere of the boudoir the window panes had been horribly fractured. In the middle of the night the friend was awakened by hearing Ward stumbling about the room. He had found an old hoop-skirt in the closet and he was in the act of cramming this into the shattered panes.

"What in thunder are you doing?" asked the shivering companion.

"Tryin' to stop up the c-crack!" shivered Ward.

"That won't do any good."

"Ye-yes it will," stuttered Ward, as he continued his work. "It'll k-keep out the c-c-coarsest of the c-c-cold!"

Then he wrapped his nighties about him and slid under the covers.

He Envied His Foot.

Borus was reading a chapter from his forthcoming book to his friend, the literary editor. Suddenly he stopped, straightened his leg out with a jerk and said:

"It's a dismal feeling, Naggus, to have your foot go to sleep."

"Yes," replied the literary editor, "but you ought to let it sleep. Go on, Borus."

How She Brought Him Round.

Mr. Chugwater—"The idea of shutting up the front of the house to make folks think we've gone to some fashionable watering-place for the Summer is all blamed nonsense and I won't have it done."

Mrs. Chugwater (changing his tactics)—"All right Josiah. I'll give up the idea. The girls need the piano practice, anyhow, and—"

"Does the piano go with the front of the house when they do this sort of thing?"

"Of course."

"Then shut'er up, up, Samantha—shut'er up."

Youth and Age.

When all the world is young, lad, and all
the trees are green,
And every goose a swan, lad, and every lass
a queen;
Then, hey for boot and horse, lad, and ride
the world away;
Young blood must have its course, lad, and
every dog his day.

When all the world is old, lad, land all the
trees are brown,
And all the sport is stale, lad, and all the
wheels run down;
Creep home and take thy place there, thy
early friends among;
God grant you find one face there you lov'd
when all was young.

MISCELLANEOUS.

"Why isn't something done to save that ship in distress?" cried an excited lady on the beach.

"We have sent the crew a line to come ashore, mum," said a life-saver, hurriedly.

"Of all things! Were they waiting for a formal invitation?"

Postage on foreign letters was not included in the charge of rates by which a full ounce became the domestic single unit of weight. Many people forget this, and post heavy letters to friends travelling abroad, prepaying them with only on five-cent stamp, and subjecting the recipients to annoyance, expense and delay. It should be borne in mind that outside of the United States and Canada, a half ounce is still the unit of weight, and everything heavier requires additional postage.

In 1871 Japan had only forty-six ships of European construction; now it has 1,420. The number of pieces handled by the Japanese mail service swelled from 61,000,000 in 1869 to 150,000,000 in 1888. There are now 27,923 educational institutions, with 69,032 teachers and 3,050,538 students, against 12,597 institutions, 27,000 teachers, and 1,300,000 students in 1873.

Berlin's population was first counted in about 1600, and it had then 12,000 inhabitants. In 1640 the thirty years' war had cut down the number to 7,000. Under the great elector the population swelled to 20,000, and under Frederick II. to 173,000. In 1850 the population was 600,000. Now it is 1,574,000.

Finland, the most northwestern province of Russia, is a country seven hundred miles long and, on an average, two hundred miles wide, embracing an area nearly one and a fourth times that of the British Isles. It has a commerce of considerable importance, several interesting towns, a university enrolling 1,700 students annually, a hardy, thrifty peasant population, and scenery peculiarly and characteristically its own.

The persons who make mistakes in directing letters or who send to fictitious addresses are apparently legion, according to a recent report from the dead-letter office. In the last year 6,000,000 pieces of mail matter were sent to the dead-letter office at Washington. Four hundred and fifty-one thousand letters were misdirected or only partilly addressed; 24,000 envelopes were entirely blank, containing no address at all. One hundred and sixty-five letters were addressed to persons in care of hotels, who hand departed without leaving their addresses or forwarding orders. Forty-two thousand were sent to fictitious addresses, and were principally letters concerning green goods or sawdust swindles. A large proportion of the packages received at the dead-letter office was made of those upon which the required amount of postage had not been placed. Twenty-eight thousand letters and packages contained money amounting to $48,642, and 27,000 contained drafts and checks, notes and commercial paper worth in the aggregate $1,471,871. Eleven thousand had lottery tickets within the envelopes. The department recommends to correspondents to write the full name of the state to which a letter or package and is to be sent, in the case of package to add the sender's name, while care is taken as to the proper postage.

A Stockholm dispatch says the government of Sweden has orderedan inquiry as to the condition in parts of that country said to be almost denuded of young men by immigration to America. Young women of the domestic service are also very scarce, and the wages demanded by servants have risen to double the figure of a few years ago. The supply of conscripts is running short, and the burden of military service falls more heavily on those who remain. As the aged and crippled are generally left behind, while the young and strong of both sexes emigrate, the country in many places looks as if the effective population had been carried off by war, leaving only the physically worthless. Another fact that causes anxiety to the Swedish government is the large proportion of pure, light-haired Swedes among the emigrants, this being the class akin to the North German and English that has heretofore upheld the country both in war and in peace. Their places in Northern Sweden are largely taken by immigrant Lapps, who are akin to the Mongols. In Vermland, called the cradle of the Swedes, the people are leaving in throngs, and nearly every young person wants to emigrate.

Two Delicate Dishes.

FRENCH BUTTER.—Put thick, sweet, rich cream into a large, wide mouth glass bottle or jar, and cork tightly. I have often used one of those bottles that ground coffee comes in; they hold about a quart. Let one of the children vigorously shake the bottle, which should not be half full, and generally in a few minutes the butter has came. Then work out the buttermilk and make up into pats. Some people salt very slightly, but, as a rule, this butter is not salted at all. Unless as a matter of taste, neither the French nor the Devonshire butter requires either washing or salting, only to get the butermilk out thoroughly. They are made to be eaten at once—the fresher the better. If unexpected friends come to see you, and you wish to surprise them with a country treat, this French butter can be made with a meal is being prepared, and to city people it is always acceptible, and generally new.

GOOSEBERRY FOOL.—Is also easily and quickly made, and, as an impromptu addition to the table, fill a place of its own. Make a smooth boiled custard, and set on ice to cool. Have an equal quantity of stewed gooseberries, well sweetened, and also cold. Mix the custard and gooseberries together, put in a bowl or glass dish, and set on ice till wanted, and then serve, with a basket of fresh cake. To be in its perfection, this dish should be made of fresh gooseberries, but it is *almost* as good if made with the canned fruit, and it is thus available at all seasons of the year. ELIZA M. JONES.
Ontario, Canada.

In the Morn ng.

"Four years ago," writes Col. David Wylie, Brockville, Ont., May, 1888, "I had a severe attack of rheumatism, and could not stand on my feet. The pain was excruciating. I was blistered and purged in true orthodox style, but all to no purpose. I was advised to try St. Jacobs Oil, which I did. I had my ankles well rubbed and then wrapped with flannel saturated with the remedy. In the morning I could walk without pain." Many get up and walk in the same way.

Makes the Weak Strong

The marked benefit which people in run down or weakened state of health derive from Hood's Sarsaparilla, conclusively proves the claim that this medicine "makes the weak strong." It does not act like a stimulant, imparting fictitious strength from which there must follow a reaction of greater weakness than before, but in the most natural way Hood's Sarsaparilla overcomes

That Tired Feeling

creates an appetite, purifies the blood, and, in short, gives great bodily, nerve, mental and digestive strength.

"I derived very much benefit from Hood's Sarsaparilla, which I took for general debility. It built me right up, and gave me an excellent appetite." ED. JENKINS, Mt. Savage, Md.

Fagged Out

"Last spring I was completely fagged out. My strength left me and I felt sick and miserable all the time, so that I could hardly attend to my business. I took one bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla, and it cured me. There is nothing like it." R. C. BEGOLE, Editor Enterprise, Belleville, Mich.

Worn Out

"Hood's Sarsaparilla restored me to good health. Indeed, I might say truthfully it saved my life. To one feeling tired and worn out I would earnestly recommend a trial of Hood's Sarsaparilla." MRS. PHEBE MOSHER, 90 Brooks Street, East Boston, Mass.

N. B. If you decide to take Hood's Sarsaparilla do not be induced to buy anything else instead. Insist upon having

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100 Doses One Dollar

The Use of the Curtain.

As the curtain slowly descended between the acts he said: "I don't see why they call that a drop curtain. It don't drop, it just rolls down."

"Ah, yes!" she returned, "but you see it's a signal for the men to go out and take a drop of something."

"August Flower"

Dyspepsia. There is a gentleman at Malden-on-the-Hudson, N. Y., named Captain A. G. Pareis, who has written us a letter in which it is evident that he has made up his mind concerning some things, and this is what he says:

"I have used your preparation called August Flower in my family for seven or eight years. It is constantly in my house, and we consider it the best remedy for Indigestion, and Constipation we have ever used or known. My wife is troubled with Dyspepsia, and at times suffers very much after eating. The August Flower, however, relieves the difficulty. My wife frequently says to me when I am going to town, 'We are out of August Flower, and I think you had better get another bottle.' I am also troubled with Indigestion, and whenever I am, I take one or two teaspoonfuls before eating, for a day or two, and all trouble is removed."

Indigestion.

Constipation

Queen Victoria's family circle now numbers fifty living descendants, including sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, great-grandsons and great-granddaughters. Besides these she has four sons-in-law, four daughters-in-law, five grandsons-in-law, and one granddaughter-in-law. The queen has lost one son, one daughter, five grandsons, one granddaughter, one great-grandson, and one son-in-law.

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