

# AGRICULTURAL.

## Variety in Ornamental Planting.

There is no good reason for the prevailing habit of variety in trees, shrubs, and other plants employed in making American gardens as attractive. Among the many hundreds of trees, shrubs, and flowers, that are available in nearly every part of this country, only a few are now kept for sale in the leading nurseries, there is in the matter of flowering, for example, a wonderful variety, and there is enough difference among these in their season of coming into bloom, to enable one to make a selection, that would afford a wealth of beauty every week in the North from April to October, and for some months longer at the South. Then the variety that is afforded by different forms, habits, and sizes of such plants, the colors and shapes of the leaves, branches, and the ornamental value of some, is very great, and adds to their beauty and interest. The evergreen shrubs and shrubs must also be mentioned for their peculiar attractions they contribute throughout the entire year. Then there are the hardy climbers—a most useful and easily managed class of ornamental plants, and the annuals, biennials, and rock-flowing plants, all of which possess value for special purposes. Besides the hardy kinds, possessing permanent value, there is an endless assortment of annual and perennial plants, raised each year from seeds, bulbs, cuttings, or in greenhouses or window-garden, that are yearly grown, and which serve to render the garden gay for months in the summer, with their characteristically bright flowers. Now all these things are so easily and cheaply procured in the nursery and seed establishments, that no one who has a plot of land surrounding the house should put off for any length of time, the setting out of a sufficient assortment to amply embellish the surroundings of one's home attractive, and pay in dollars and cents, besides contributing to the enjoyment. The writer has recently attended the appraisal of some ornamental trees, twelve years planted, that had come away on account of the widening of a street. The amount allowed the owner as a remuneration for individual trees was as high as seventy-five dollars each. The same trees when planted perhaps cost one dollar each, and the labor of setting one-half as much more. It was their worth for shade and ornament that governed the price. There are few places where the presence or absence of fine trees and shrubs would not similarly effect their valuation if they are children, judicious investments in beautifying the surroundings, will afford invaluable returns in cultivating them a love for and an interest in natural objects; inspiring in them a desire for the study of botany and natural sciences, than which nothing is more pure and satisfying to young minds. There is much complaint of the inclination of the young to leave rural homes for town life. Nothing would be more potent to arrest this tendency, than to spend one's money and time in rendering the home attractive by the means that have been suggested. Resolve to set out and properly attend to a suitable selection of trees, shrubs, and flowers.

**Country Dwellings and Grounds.**  
Prof. W. J. Beal, of Michigan, in his horticultural report, says many things worthy to be remembered. He thinks the majority of farm-houses are too near the road, and that many make a mistake in placing the barn across the road, in front of the parlor window, it may be. Have the vegetable and fruit garden as near the house as convenient. About one-tenth of the cost of buildings should be set down for the improvement of grounds. Dispense with walks and drives, except where they are required for daily use. Study the matter a long time before locating the walks, but get trees started with little delay. It is a mistaken notion to think that trees and flowers are the only ornaments of a place. A smooth, well kept lawn of fine grass is of the greatest importance in ornamenting a place. It is the foundation or the groundwork, and is equally important to trees and shrubs. Gravel wood piles and outbuildings with irregular groups of evergreens. A few trees in the right place, will soon add much to the value of the farm, whether it be to use as a home or to sell for cash. Trees shelter the dwelling and the barn from piercing winds; they add comfort and joy to man and beast; they economize the food of animals; they save fuel in the sitting-room; they harbor birds; they afford shade in Summer. Beautiful trees will serve to constantly remind every one of the thoughtful and generous hand that planted them.

In locating trees there are a great many things to be considered. They should not be planted in straight rows, neither should they be planted at great distances from each other, except possibly along the road or along some fence. A lawn may be frittered away and too much broken up by scattering trees all over it. Trees are very often planted too near the house, the owner not realizing that they are destined to grow upward and extend their long branches in every direction. It is very seldom best to set a tree nearer than 40 to 50 feet of a house. Hundreds of instances can be pointed out where trees were planted nearer the house than 40 feet. They shade the house, scatter leaves on the roof, rot shingles and spoil the water in the cistern; they kill the grass, keep paths damp; they crowd each other so the lower limbs die or crowd each other; they shut out the view from the windows. After they have been planted and have made a good growth, the owner has become attached to them. He hesitates to take them out; he trims them and leaves them, but they are far from satisfactory, because they are not planted in the right place. Do not set trees in circles, squares, stars or in any other formal way. Do not trim the trees so as to form grotesque shapes. Many a small yard is spoiled by an overgrown cherry tree or a large Norway Spruce. Where the space does not exceed half an acre, employ shrubby, small kinds of trees, with a very few single specimens of large kinds of trees. Avoid the Lombardy Poplar, it is short lived; the Mountain Ash, it is subject to borers, and such evergreens as the Balsam Fir, which soon loses its lower branches. Do not plant too many evergreens. They will give a sombre look in Summer. If you plant too few, the place will look naked in Winter.

For roadside planting in the country, Prof. Beal prefers the American Elm, Sugar Maple, Silver Maple, Norway Maple, Sycamore Maple, White Pine, and the birches.

But we should never select the Silver Maple or any of the birches for this purpose. Showberry is especially suited to small places, and some shrubs should find room in all backyards. It is a common mistake to scatter shrubs about the lawn, setting each one by itself. This sets up the lawn for weeds, and the shrubs require more labor for their care. Mass your shrubbery where it can be cultivated and enriched together. Shrubs need shifting into new places or need the soil changed about them often than trees. Their roots do not spread so far or run so deep.

Roses require considerable care. In most cases they are neglected by busy people and present a sorry appearance. Much may be done by way of exchanging plants, shrubs, and trees. Thus they bring up many pleasant associations every time we see them. In this way, also, one person stimulates his neighbors and friends, and may do much to improve the surrounding country and make it the admiration of all who pass that way.

## GARDEN AND FARM.

Do not be in a hurry to plant; wait until the soil is in proper condition to receive the roots.

Experiment has shown that if a portion of the eye of potatoes is cut out or injured it causes the remainder to push forward more vigorously.

Now remember this, plant strawberries as soon in the spring as soon as you can get the ground ready. The earlier the better for next year's crop.

Never throw aside a variety of garden vegetable that you know to be good until there is a dead certainty that you have found something better.

Branches of trees broken off by heavy loads of snow or by winds should be cut back to the main branch and the wound covered with paint or melted grafting wax.

Engage the farm hands now for the year, and have steady employment for them. Do not let men be exposed in hard, cold rains, at the risk of a long sickness in the busiest time of the year.

Clean the poultry house and sprinkle with ashes or plaster. If lice abound, apply kerosene in small amounts to the perches, from which it will spread to the birds in effective quantities.

Hanging baskets are best watered by plunging them in a pail or tub of water until the ball of earth is well soaked. Allow the excess to drip, and when this ceases return the basket to its place.

Remove the surface water from the fields by trenches before the ground is deeply thawed, and avoid wasteful washing of gullies. See that the outlets of all drains are clear and working properly.

Get all the seeds ready, and purchase any implements that will be needed later in the season. Have all the machinery of the farm in prime working order, and be abreast of the rush of work as it comes.

Get ready for the onion crop. Onions go in the first of all the vegetables, and the tender seed-bed is sited the better. Plenty of well-rooted manure, fine condition of soil, and good cultivation are essential.

A writer in the London Garden says he has discovered that grapevines in houses do better under rough rolled glass than under clear glass. The two most striking things he observed were the good quality of the fruit and especially its color, and the health of the foliage of the vines, which was less affected by red spiders than any he had ever known before.

## People Who Never Eat Bread.

There are civilized nations a large proportion of whose people eat little or no bread. Baked leaves of bread are unknown in many parts of South Austria and of Italy and throughout the agricultural districts of Roumania. In the villages of the Obersteiermark, not very many miles from Vienna, bread is never seen, the staple food of the people being sturz, a kind of porridge made from ground beehive nut, which is taken at breakfast with fresh or curdled milk, at dinner with broth or with fried lard, and at night with milk for supper. This sturz is also known as heiden, and takes the place of bread only in the Steiermark, but in Carinthia and in many parts of the Tyrol. In the north of Italy the peasantry live chiefly on polenta, a porridge made of boiled maize. The polenta, however, is not allowed to granulate like Scotch porridge or like the Austrian sturz but is boiled into a solid pudding, which is cut up and portioned out with a string. It is eaten cold as often as hot, and as in every sense the Italian peasant's daily bread. The modern Roumanians are held by many scholars to be descended from a Roman colony, in other words, to be the cousins of the Italians; and, curiously enough, a variation of the polenta called mamaliga is the national dish of Roumania. The mamaliga is like the polenta in that it is made of boiled maize, but it is unlike the latter in one important respect, as the grains are not allowed to settle into a solid mass, but are kept distinct, after the fashion of oatmeal porridge.

## Fashionable Shoes.

Progress says:—Fashion has seldom looked kindly upon patent leather shoes. Patent leather shoes have somehow never been thought quite the thing. And, moreover, they are not comfortable. The sun draws the leather, and then they clasp the foot unpleasantly close. But this summer they are going to make patent leather the mode if they can. Patent leathers are cheaper than they used to be. Now all grade shoes sell only about a dollar lower than patent leathers, the patents do not last as long as calfskin, and they must not get wet. But they are easily cleaned. They do not have to be blackened; a rag with a little oil on it is all that is required. Patent leathers are only for gentlemen. Ladies never wear them. Why, I do not know, except it is that they have too much taste. But the shoe of all shoes for Summer for gentlemen is to be of seal skin. As for boots, there are hardly any made for regular wear, except for conservative old gentlemen who never change their habits. Thirty years ago it was all boots.

A woman will hang a pet dog around the streets all day in her arms and yet feel lonely. The disgrace of being seen carrying her own baby. The female mind is past finding out.

## Swords.

Barbarous and ancient swords are only weapons, but it must be remembered that a sword is a deadly weapon. It is a fact that in the last century of the year ago, while certain models advanced in comparatively recent times are now considered the most perfect, the Roman broadsword could scarcely be laid to rest when once invented, simply because it was an almost perfect weapon. Blades of the same shape are to be seen in the Assyrian bas-reliefs, and they have their descendants to-day in the Spanish "machete" and our father's cut-throat. Sir Samuel Baker found a tribe of African A-sha using the straight heavy slashing sword of our medieval man-at-arms to hunt the elephant. Hicks Pasha's soldiers and the garrison of Sinita doubtless felt the weight of some of these swords. The carved scymitars in use among oriental nations have been worn from time immemorial.

On the other hand, we hear of particular forms invented by amateurs in the seventeenth century, which were soon given up in spite of great merit. Such a sword was the "Jolichemarde." This weapon was the invention of one of the extraordinary Swedish house of Konigsmark which produced the general who sacked Prague at the close of the Thirty Years' War, and after occupying a pretty conspicuous place in Europe for more than a century, ended with the gentleman who was murdered for intriguing with the wife of George I., and the lady who was the mother of Maurice of Saxony, and from whom George Sand descended. Probably the inventor of the colichemarde was the Count Konigsmark who figures in our own State trials as the murderer of Mr. Thynne, in the reign of Charles II. It was a triangular blade, very thick near the handle, and suddenly tapering to a very delicate rapier point. The colichemarde is said to have been an admirable weapon to fence with, and to have fallen out of use on account of its costliness and its supposed ugly look when sheathed. Judging from the descriptions it is possible to find a better reason for its unpopularity. The delicacy for which it was famous must have been more apparent than real, for it was gained by overweighing the "forte," that is the part of the blade near the handle, and therefore making it difficult to direct the point.

## Jacob's Well.

The state of Jacob's Well is, doubtless, well known to the majority of our readers, even to those who have not themselves visited the Holy Land. It has again and again been described by the many writers on Palestine, and all have mentioned their disappointment that instead of finding any semblance to a well, or anything which could recall the interview of our Lord with the women of Samaria, they have merely found a dark irregular hole amid a mass of ruins in a vaulted chamber beneath the surface of the ground. I have shared this disappointment on many previous visits to Nablous, and again as, a fortnight ago, we stood beside the spot, it was with great regret that we were so utterly unable to picture before us the scene so graphically described by the Evangelist. We had clambered down into the vault, and were vainly attempting to peer into the dark hole amid the heaps of stone and rubbish when we chanced to see a few feet from the opening of the well, a dark crack between the stones. Fancying that possibly it might be another opening of the well, we removed some stones and earth, and as we were able to trace part of a carved aperture in a large slab of stone. Deeply interested at finding this, we cleared away more earth and stones, and soon distinguished the circular mouth of the well, though it was blocked by an immense mass of stone. Calling to two men who were looking on, with considerable labor, we at length managed to remove it, and the opening of the well was clear. It is impossible to describe our feelings as we gazed down the open well, and sat on that ledge on which, doubtless the Saviour rested, and felt with our fingers the grooves in the stones caused by the ropes by which the pots were drawn up.

## A Life's Romance.

How many romances are clad in the homeliest and even most repulsive guise! It is now discovered that a deaf and dumb knock-knock peddler, who for fourteen years attracted much attention on London Bridge, and who has just died in the poor-house, was a Swiss gentleman of fortune and belonged to one of the best families in the republic. Just before his death he called one of the hospital attendants to him, confessed that his deafness and dumbness had been feigned, and related his story. When a young man he was betrothed to a beautiful and accomplished girl. He had a violent temper, and in a quarrel one day over a trifle, he wounded the girl by the bitterness of his invective that she fell ill. The reproaches of his friends for his cruel conduct stung so that he became melancholy from remorse and left home. He vowed to become a voluntary exile for twenty years, to earn his own living, leave his fortune untouched, keep his relatives and go friends ignorant of his whereabouts, and go bareheaded and barefooted in all weathers during the entire time and to listen to no one and to speak to no human being during the last ten years of his exile. If he lived to complete his vow he meant to return home and use his fortune and the remainder of his days in making his betrothed happy, providing she were alive and unmarried, he rigidly kept his vow, but death cut short his programme. Investigation it is said fully substantiates the truth of his story, and his family in Switzerland have been notified.

## Chinese Superstition.

As an illustration of the regardlessness of the Chinese for their female offspring, a child of tender years was observed to fall from a sampan into the river when no attempt whatever was made to effect its rescue. The infant, however, fortunately became entangled in the cordage of a broken spar, which, whilst drifting down the river, was picked up by the crew of another boat, and the child restored to her parents, who, as is customary, administered a sound flogging to the semi-drowned infant. The theory held by the natives is, that by preserving a fallen creature from a watery grave the rescue is meritorious in the next world for all the sins afterwards committed by the person rescued; which literally means that a wise dispensation of Providence has been frustrated.

## Earthquakes and Luminous Paint.

The connection between earthquakes and luminous paint would hardly be apparent to anyone without explanation. It is a fact that in the last century of the year ago, in our own country has served to remind us of its existence. As a matter of fact large quantities of the paint are sent to countries where earthquakes are prevalent. The use to which it is put invests it with the utmost importance just for the few critical moments of the shock. In the Philippine Islands, where earthquakes are not uncommon, small metallic plates coated with luminous paint are so placed on the premises that at the first shaking the paint is quickly guided to the door, and thus to the street. In Manila it is laid on in patches about the bedrooms and staircases, serving as guides for the doorhandles and the stairs, night lights being considered especially dangerous as likely to set fire to the falling house, and thus to rest the inmates in their own homes. It follows that those who live in districts likely to be visited by earthquakes will do well to adopt this plan, and to burn no flame lights at night, especially in the case of gas, the pipes for which might be broken asunder, and the gas escape and take fire. The gas should be turned off at the main night, and luminous labels be so placed as to indicate the door handles and other guides to the main point of egress, which would enable the residents to find their way out of their houses in the dark before the well-perfected buried them. It will be remembered that at Lechia there was just sufficient time between the first shock of the earthquake and the downfall of the Grand Hotel to permit those who acted promptly to save their lives.—Iron.

## How He Saved a Bank.

"I saved a bank from bursting once myself," remarked a seedy-looking old chap as he laid down a morning paper, which he had perused second-handed. "I admit I ain't very wealthy now, but years ago, before my troubles came on me, I had large interests in manufacturing and banking. I was President of the bank in our town where there was a little panic and people made a run. I went in to see how they were getting along, just as the excitement began, when I found they couldn't stand it until the close of banking hours. The director wanted to suspend, but I objected. I told him to leave it to me. Happened it was pay-day at my shop. Husted up there, put a flea in the engineer's ear, and in five minutes the engine broke down. The men were glad to get a holiday, but wanted their money. I told 'em we didn't have the cur-ry ready, but would give 'em checks on the bank. My clerks made out the checks in a hurry, and weren't over-particular about losing any time figuring out odd cents. Well, my own two hundred and more men rushed for the bank and by the time the big depositors had heard of the run and had got round there was a big line in front of 'em. It took three hours to pay off my men with currency from my safe at the shop, which I carried in the back door of the bank. In that three hours we raised enough money to pay every dollar due our depositors, and the bank was saved."—[Chicago Herald] "Train Talk."

## Roman Roads in England.

The four "great" Roman roads in England still run very much on the same lines as were laid down by the conquerors, but it is a popular error to believe that they were but four great roads. If we chose to put ourselves to some interesting trouble, we shall find that England and Wales are covered with a perfect network of Roman roads. The Watling street, the Icknield street, the Ermine street, and the Fosse Way were undoubtedly the Imperial roads to which most of the others were accessories; but the unlearned explorer is astonished to find Roman roads far away from any of the four, and of evident importance from the remains unearthed at different times on their routes. The famous Watling street is an instance of this. Most people know that its regular course, which is still broad, well used high road, is from Dover to Richborough, through London, St. Albans, Worcester, Shrewsbury, and Chester to Carnarvon, and they do not look for it anywhere else. Yet the traveller hears it spoken of at Chelmsford and Colchester; he meets with it running through the Like Country; he finds it almost in a straight line going to Whitby, via Huddersfield and York, and he is most of all astonished to meet it crossing the Roman wall in Northumberland on its way to Scotland. The Fosse Way and the Icknield street do not present such complications in the way of branches, but the Ermine street puzzles him much in the same way. Again, it is sometimes difficult for the explorer to say up what Roman road a particular town stands, for want of evidence as to any road at all, but from conflicting evidence. Thus, Winchester may stand upon any one of the five Roman roads which converge upon it respectively from Silchester, Salisbury, Southampton, Porchester, and Farnham. Again, the modern high road does not invariably stick close to that of Roman construction, which occasionally dwindles into a mere county lane, such as the Watling street between Dorchester and Rochester, and the Ermine street between Coehunt and Pack ridge, while in other places it disappears altogether. The solution of all these difficulties, however, leads to a task which need by no means be of a dry-as-dust nature.

## The Growth of the English Language.

The "English Dictionary on Historical Principles," undertaken over a quarter of a century ago, has just reached the point of the appearance of part I, which carries it only to the termination of the suffix at. There are 352 pages in the volume, and it embraces 8,365 separate words. The corresponding portion of Webster covers only fifty-six pages, and comprises only 3,550. It will be seen at a glance how rapidly we have been gaining in this respect—for while many of the words enumerated are such as Webster might have secured, but did not, they are in much larger measure new inventions or new adaptations. A sampling of the other letters of the alphabet will maintain this ratio, the words contained in this new dictionary will reach the bewildering number of about 300,000, or fully one-third more than we have been accustomed to regard as the limit. And it is by no means certain that this book includes all the words that are fairly entitled to a place in such a work.

## CRAZY AT TIMES.

Every Person is a Lunatic Now and Then.

Prof. David Spring, of Chicago, says: The fact that a druggist of this city has ended a human life by putting his wrong medicine into a man's stomach, has many customers who were in the store; he was in a hurry; he put up medicine instead of some similar drug. The inquiry arises whether the clerk is able to fill an order only when he has no customers in the shop? How empty must the shop be in order to secure safety? Must the street in front of the drug store also be empty? What if a fire-gang goes by? What if a fight occurs while the druggist is reaching for quinine? Is he justified in taking down strychnine? What if his mother-in-law has come to visit him?

Such questions came up and properly; but there is another side to the fact of erring druggists, and that is, that most persons are crazy part of the time. The exceptions are rare. Each one is now and then a fool of the most complete order and species. All the laws and penalties in the world will not avail to make a druggist or anybody else have his full senses through all his life. Crazy moments or seconds will come. A wise man will step back wards a porch or into a mud-puddle, a great philosopher will hunt for the specks that are in his hand or on his forehead, a hunter will sometimes shoot himself or his dog, a barber will sometimes forget his job and slice off a piece of a chin or an ear or the nose. A girl at work at Marshall Field's had been feeding a great clothing knife for ten years. Last week she watched the knife come down slowly upon her hand. Too late she woke up out of her stupor with one hand gone. For a few seconds her mind had failed and she sat by her machine a temporary lunatic and had watched the knife approach her own hand.

The man recently murdered on North Clark street of Chicago saw the enemy come up with murder on his face, saw him draw a revolver, and instead of making a lightning spring at the man, he stood bewildered and thus fell dead. His reason left him in the second of his greatest need.

One of the distinguished professors in one of our colleges was teaching near a canal. Walking alone one evening in summer he walked as deliberately into the canal as he had been walking along the path a second before. He was brought to his senses by the water and mud and the absurdity of the situation. He had on a new suit of clothes and a new silk hat, but, though the damage was thus great, he still laughs over the adventure.

Our mail-collectors find in the iron boxes along the streets all sorts of papers and articles which have been put in by some hand from whose motions the mind has become detached for a second. A glove, a pair of spectacles, a deed, a mortgage, a theatre ticket, goes in and on goes to the person holding on to the regular letter which should have been deposited. This is called absent-mindedness, but this is a brief lunacy. A lunatic is a person whose mind is habitually out of balance.

## How Wooden Pipes are Made.

The short clay pipe formerly used by smokers has of late years been to a great extent supplanted by the wooden pipe, the manufacture of which is now an important industry. Some information respecting these pipes is given in British Consul Inglis's trade report on Liphorn, whence the material for making wooden pipes is now largely exported. Selected roots of the hemoth are collected on the hills of the Maremma, where the plants grow luxuriantly and attain a great size. When brought to the factory, the roots are cleared of earth, and any decayed parts are cut away. They are then shaped into blocks of various dimensions with a circular saw set in motion by a small steam engine. Great dexterity is necessary at this stage in cutting the wood to the best advantage, and it is only after a long apprenticeship that a workman is thoroughly efficient. The blocks are then placed in a vat and subjected to a gentle simmering for a space of twelve hours. During this process they acquire the rich yellowish-brown hue for which the best pipes are noted, and are then in a condition to receive the final turning; but this is done elsewhere. The rough blocks are packed in casks containing from forty to one hundred dozen each, and sent abroad, principally to France (St. Cloud), where they are finished into the famous G. B. D., or "pipes de pruyers," known to smokers in England and the United States under the name of "Biarwood" pipes.

## An Agreeable Royal Pair.

King Humbert is quite nervous in manner, and takes off his hat as though doubtful whether to toss it to the crowd, throw it on the floor of the carriage, or keep it on his head. I think the last would suit him best. He smiles, of course; that he must do, but such a smile! It is the mere turning up of the corners of the mouth, and seems to say: "Confound the mob! I'm tired, if I am a king, and shall not break my neck nodding." The queen is simplicity itself. Her manners, however, approach nearer my idea of queenliness than I ever expected to find. I see her often. She is always simply dressed, generally in black silk or satin, with seal-skin encoque and seal-skin broad-rimmed hat. She makes no display of jewellery. So far as dress goes, she is just like every other woman in comfortable circumstances. Indeed she makes no effort to be different. Her manner says plainly: "Circumstances have made me a Queen, but, after all, I am only a woman—no worse nor better than you."

## A Mormon.

A Nova Scotia paper says: Halifax is excited over the presence in that city of a "real" Mormon. He is a nephew of the late Brigham Young, and a priest in the Church of the Latter Day Saints. His mission is to find some trace of his relatives, whom he believes to be residing in Nova Scotia, a grand-nucle having gone there from Massachusetts with the U. E. Loyalists. In an interview with a reporter of the Herald he stated that the population of Utah Territory at the taking of the last census was 143,963. This is made up as follows:—Mormons, 129,283; Apostate Mormons, 6,988; Josephite Mormons, 820; Gentiles, 14,166; and doubtful, 1,716. The native American Mormons number 99,989, the foreign born 43,974. The classification by sex is:—Males, 74,809; females, 69,454. The excess of the male population is explained by the fact that the greater portion of the non-Mormons is composed of unmarried men and minors.

SAUSAGES  
Currie & Co  
KON & CO  
Belting  
Mixed  
LL I DRINK  
Fruit Juice  
CHANGES  
ND PROVISIONS