

AGRICULTURAL.

Seed Farming and Gardening.

According to science and the dictionary, all grains are seeds, but practical experience frequently shows that the condition in which the farmer often reaches the market renders them unfit for the purposes of seeding.

Why then do not more farmers devote their time and land to seed growing? There is, we are glad to say, increased attention to this branch of the business of farming, and with a corresponding reduction in the extraordinary profits that once were common.

With regard to many varieties of garden seeds it is probable that they should be more largely grown by farmers themselves than is the case at present. Such a course is accompanied by some trouble and exertion, but the extra labor required involves an education which helps fit the man for something better.

Very few farmers have facilities for sowing seed on a large scale at retail prices. If they grow such for market they must do so under contract, and the prices paid are but little in excess of ordinary market rates.

There is a curious fact that many inland towns are supplied with vegetables grown by market gardeners on the high-priced lands near New York and Boston, and thence shipped to places that have not enterprise enough to supply the home demand.

Luminous Plants.

There is a sort of fungus called Rhizomorpha subterranea, which stretches its root like tendrils along the walls and floors of mines, or other underground places.

It is precisely the sort of phenomenon that eludes all but those who are continually on the watch. The phenomenon, however, appear to be so well guaranteed that there is no sufficient reason for doubting them.

Garden and Farm.

Provide some old mortar in the hen-yard. Under-draining causes the soil to be cooler in the summer.

Tarred paper wrappings injured and killed young trees in a Western orchard. When only a few fowl are kept it is best to renew the stock every year.

The best way to use special manures is to sow them on the surface after partially fitting the soil, then cultivate and harrow in.

Cat common brown wrapping paper into pieces four inches square and wrap around plants when planting. It will defend them from cut-worms.

Much of the failure with pear trees, in localities supposed to be unfavorable to the growth and bearing of pear trees, is undoubtedly owing to deficient care and culture.

Do not, in feeding calves, change too suddenly from one food to another; and give no more than is really eaten. Calves, like all other young animals, need frequent, rather than large feeds.

A variety of vegetables is used for filling silos in other countries. In France beet tops and the leaves of grapes are employed, in England turnip leaves and vetches, and in India different kinds of wild plants.

Dried blood on strawberry land, applied between the rows, 400 pounds per acre, increased a Kansas crop one-third, prolonged the period of ripening, and the fruit held its size. Results much better than with common manure.

Essilage, properly made, says Dr. Hoskins, is a good feed, when properly used, as any that was ever devised for feeding dairy cows—as good as roots, and far less costly and difficult to produce in large quantities upon our American farms.

Salt is being freely used by nurserymen in their pear nurseries for the purpose of counteracting blight. Iron filings and copperas in solution have been used for the purpose. If these remedies do not prevent the disease, they at least correct a disposition to blight.

Success in raising house-plants may be forwarded by using soil, two-thirds of which is garden-soil and the rest sand. It should be kept light and loose about the roots, and the plants watered only as they appear to need it.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

Ergotine is the most expensive drug now in the market, and costs nearly \$1500 per pound.

Rain falling upon a dry soil and moistening it to some depth warms both the soil and the water.

The value of the unconsumed coal which makes the London fog and smoke is placed at \$25,000,000 annually.

Mc. Dummer of Kittery, Maine, has invented a process by which copper can be welded as easily in his well as iron.

A bag of charcoal suspended in a cistern will purify the water, and meat wrapped in a cloth and packed in charcoal will keep fresh for weeks.

Java produces a vegetable wool which, freed from its leathery covering and the seeds, is worth sixteen and seventeen cents per pound.

Potassium bichromate is commended by Dr. Lanjirris as a disinfectant for cesspools, sewage, etc., and he thinks it likely to be of great use in diseases due to micro-organisms.

Dr. Bell maintains that in the fat of cheese and fat milk the ratio of soluble to insoluble fatty acids is the same. He is speaking of real milk, and not a mixture of chalk and water.

It is discovered that prussic acid is an antidote to strychnine, but it will have to be administered with great care, for the required dose would itself be fatal but for the presence of the strychnine.

Bread is made on the Devonshire coast of England from a sea grass Porphyra laciniata, which is chopped and mixed with a little oatmeal. It will keep from four to eight days, and the people who use it are fond of it.

Contrary to the opinions of some eminent chemists, Dr. H. Strube holds that the quality of the albumenoids in cows' milk and human milk there is no difference, but the latter has a smaller proportion of nitrogenous matter, especially of casein.

A towel folded several times and dipped in hot water and quickly wrung, and applied over the seat of the pain in toothache or

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

On the 21st of the month, the King of Holland, who was born in Brussels, in 1817, a Belgian paper says: "The church where he was baptised is now a post-office; the canal palace, which the States General built for his grandfather, has become the site for academies; the Castle of Loozven, also presented, with its splendid park, to his father, is in ruins, buried to the ground, like the old Hotel d'Orange, where he was born."

It seems that the leaders of the ins and outs in England are pretty much of a muchness in respect to slaveholding antecedents. If Mr. Gladstone's father once owned, as it is asserted, 880 slaves, Lord Salisbury's grandfather and great-uncle were strenuous upholders of the "African trade," which, indeed, found no more vigorous defender than Gen. Gascoyne, M. P. for Liverpool, whose property near that city the Marquis inherits.

Impregnation of the atmosphere of a sick chamber when the patient is ill of diphtheria, measles, scarlet fever, or of any allied disease, with the odor of a mixture of equal parts of turpentine and carbolic acid is recommended by Dr. Viland. Half a teaspoonful of the mixture will be enough at a time, if it is put into a kettle of water kept near the boiling point. The odor generally gives some relief to the sufferer, and tends to prevent the spread of the malady.

M. Gibier recently offered to the French Academy of Sciences an account of his experiments with rabbits. He found that he could easily inoculate guinea pigs, rats, etc., with hydrophia, and all his cases died with that disease. But the savant, according to the report, wound up his remarks by first proving that it was impossible for fowls to take hydrophobia, and then showing conclusively that they are the only animals who have ever been known to recover from this disease.

The Mahdi's famous lieutenant, Osman Digma, is described by one of his soldiers to be of tall and slender build, with pale complexion, large open eyes, and a fine moustache. His countenance expresses courage and energy; he is almost always on horseback, and wears over his left shoulder a veil, such as the Mohammedans of old wore. He generally carries a very long musket, and under his mantle a long sword. It is reported that he is very pious, without being a fanatic. He has only one wife and three children.

Copying paper, always damp and ready for use, is thus prepared:—One pound of chloride of magnesium is dissolved in a moderate quantity of hot or cold water. The solution is applied with a brush to copying paper, in book or other form, or, better, by means of cloth pads saturated with the solution. The pads are placed between any suitable number of leaves and pressure is applied, very moderate at first, in order that the paper may absorb enough of the liquid, and then the pressure is increased. The pads having been removed the paper is pressed and is then ready for use. The sheets will not stick together when thus treated.

On May 9 a commercial traveller found \$4,600 as he was getting out of the train at Brussels, which belonged to a German dealer in horses, who had been travelling in the same compartment, and of whom he forthwith went in search, and met frantically rushing to the station. The worthy German, with prodigal generosity, offered him a dollar, which the finder declined. "Then," said the other, "you must at any rate come and dine with me; I cannot pass over such a service in this light manner." The invitation was accepted. The inviting guest appeared on time, but no host was forthcoming, and the guest, as he paid his bill, vowed to abstain for all time forth from favors toward Teutonic dealers in horseflesh.

At a meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute, London, the general introduction of metal sleepers for railroads was advocated by Mr. W. E. Browne. The experience of Germany had shown that the loss by corrosion was trifling on much-used roads, and that there was no complaints of "hard-riding." Webb's wrought-iron sleepers proved a success in South Wales. A member stated that within the last two years 40,000 tons of iron permanent way had been sent abroad by British manufacturers, and that he himself had on hand 111,000 metal sleepers for exportation. Another member spoke in favor of superseding sleepers of every kind by the adoption of a steel rail of 140 pounds to the yard, as he believed that a rail of this kind was to be the rail of the future. The price of wooden sleepers is even now very close upon that of iron ones, and under very favorable circumstances the life of the former rarely exceeds twenty-one years.

Scarcely 25 years ago the most powerful piece of artillery was a 68 pounder, throwing its projectile with a velocity of 1,600 feet per second. Now the weights of guns have been increased from 5 tons to 100 tons, the velocities from 1,600 feet to 20,000 feet per second, the energies from 1,000 foot-tons to over 52,000, and the projectiles from 68 pounds to 2,000 pounds. But enormous as these attainments are expressed in figures the highest or greatest are as nothing when compared, as some one has remarked, with those of the projectiles, velocities, and energies existing in nature. Basing the estimates on the principles laid down by Helmholtz, if the earth, for example, be considered as a huge projectile, and if it could be possible to utilize the whole of the energy stored up in gunpowder, there would be required a charge 150 times greater than its own weight, and 900 times greater than its volume to impart her orbital motion to the earth.

the market, she is front of a booth, and there disposes of her wares. All complaints and inquiries are brought to him, and having inquired into them, he intrusts his only child with the execution of his duties. It is then returned home, where his assistant receives him in state, and banquet him before him. After he has prayed, his dinner is served, at which more than two thousand people take part. Among the guests appear many Europeans wearing the turban.

Petrified Logs.

The United States snag boat, Toocoi, returned to the Savannah River a few days ago, where she is having some of her machinery overhauled. She was, until a couple of weeks ago, employed in clearing out the Altamaha River, from its mouth to the Oconee River. The Toocoi is of comparatively light draft, but one of the most powerful boats of her class in the government service. She was furnished with a good supply of dynamite cartridges, and an electric battery, which were found efficacious for the work she undertook. A large number of rocks, many projecting pieces of raft timber, besides several large trees, were removed from the channel, so that the river is quite clear for timber rafts and light draft steamers.

Among the obstacles to navigation which the Toocoi encountered, were a number of petrified trunks of trees, heavier than the largest stones that were taken from the bottom of the river. About thirty miles up the river from the Savannah, Florida and Western railway bridge, a large gum tree formed an obstruction—over twenty years ago. This huge trunk has broken up several very valuable rafts of timber that were being floated to Darian, and has directly and indirectly, caused a great deal of annoyance to all persons who were interested in the business on the river. There is a bend where the obstruction lay, and the locality came to be familiarly known among the people as the "Scooping Gum Bend." Here the raftmen were always in dread expectation of having the timber in their charge "scooped in," or broken up by contact with the obstruction referred to, and carried rapidly out of their control by the current, which flows very swiftly at this point.

When the Toocoi undertook to lift this sunken tree from the river bed, it was discovered that a monster of no insignificant proportions and weight, had to be dealt with. The powerful engines and tackle of the boat were found unequal to the task, and hence the obstruction had to be broken up with dynamite, and the pieces taken up separately. The entire trunk had been completely petrified, and was as heavy as iron. One of the pieces was estimated to weigh about seventy tons. Some of the fragments were exceedingly beautiful, being of different colors—some black, others crimson and violet, and others contrasting shades.

About Some Curious Locks and Keys.

In the middle ages locks for churches and cathedral doors were often rare specimens of art metal work. Elaborate scrolls, the images of saints, and other ambitious efforts of the true artisan of those days, entered into the design of locks which were really an ornament to the magnificent doors and cabinets of those times. A design for the escutcheon surrounding the keyhole frequently had the figures of two guardian angels with outspread wings. Locks of very curious construction, known as "Apostle locks," were also common in medieval times. These locks had on the front the figure of one of the Apostles, and on touching the hand of the figure the bolt flew back. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth one Mark Scallie, a smith, constructed a lock consisting of eleven pieces of iron, steel, and brass, all of which, with a pipe key, weighed only two grains of gold. The great inventor, the Marquis of Worcester, who flourished in the reign of King Charles I, devised a lock containing a steel barb, which was perfectly harmless so long as the right key was used, but if a wrong key was inserted the barb sprang through the keyhole, and "caught the hand of the intruder as a trap catches a fox." It is said that while the inventor was experimenting with this curious lock he was scarcely nimble enough in removing his hand, and was caught in his own trap. At Willenhall, in Staffordshire, which is the great seat of the lock trade, silver padlocks, the sides of which are much smaller than a threepenny piece, are still made, and are quite perfect in their mechanism. Locks containing single bells, and even obives, which sound an alarm when tampered with by a false key, are among the modern curiosities of the trade. Common padlocks are largely made for the natives of India and Africa at Walsall. A lock and key complete are sold by the maker for a half-penny, and merchants abroad state that many of the natives string these locks together so as to form necklets, and wear them as "charms."

The Monk's Lesson.

There was once an old monk walking through a forest with a scholar, by his side. The old man suddenly stopped and pointed to four plants that were close at hand. The first was just beginning to peep above the ground, the second had rooted itself pretty well into the earth, and the third was a small shrub, while the fourth and last was a full-sized tree. Then the monk said to his young companion: "Pull up the first." The boy easily pulled it up with his fingers. "Now pull up the second," the youth obeyed, but not so easily. "And the third," the boy had to put forth all his strength and use both arms before he succeeded in uprooting it. "And now," said the monk,

CALLS AMONG OUR EXCHANGE.

"Oh, mamma," said little Paul, when his new baby was shown him for the first time, "can I wear baby's dresses when I grow big enough?"

The "big pie" is the latest. It is a signifier from the ordinary common pie, and is to be used as a cushion on the dining table.

"Will the coming man be happier?" asks a writer. It depends to a great extent whether his wife has got tired and grown sleepy or is still waiting up for him.

The question which agitates the fashionable housewife at present is not so much "Where shall we go this Summer?" as "Where shall we make the neighbors think we have gone?"

Caution: A lady ninety years old recommended to M. de Fontenelle, whose age was eighty-five: "Death has forgotten me." "Hush!" said M. de Fontenelle, putting his finger to his lips.

"Don't you remember me?" asked the soda water clerk of a lady customer. "I cannot say that I do," she replied, "but yet there is something familiar about your fizz."

Dumas fils is sometimes severe: The conversation had turned on Mrs. X—, who had been very beautiful. "She was something of a goddess," said a faithful admirer. "Yes," said Dumas, "of antiquity."

A wise man says "the most powerful kings in the world are working and thinking." Bless your simple heart, man, old four kings will knock the pair of them out so quick they'll wonder what they ever staid in for.

Miss Rosebud, who took part in amateur theatricals—"Oh, I'm so tired; I had to stand all the evening." Miss Sharp, who was in the audience—"My dear, you have not had to stand nearly as much as we have."

They talk about "the wisdom of the serpent," forgetting apparently, that it didn't require so very much sapience to beguile a poor, unprotected woman, whose mind had never been disciplined by shopping or house-keeping.

"Look here. This piece of meat don't suit me. It's from the back of the animal's neck," said a Toronto man to a German butcher. "Mine fran', all dot beef vor I sells is back of dot neck. Dare was nothing but horns in front of dot neck."

If it were as polite to ask an amateur singer not to sing any more as it is to ask him to sing in the first place, there would be less weariness of the spirit in the world, and fewer persons would go into private parlors carrying concealed weapons.

Getting solid with the dog: "Do you know the Jacksons?" asked a lady of a young man who lived in their neighborhood. "No, I'm not personally acquainted with all the members of the family," he replied, "but I always speak to the dog at the front gate as I go past."

"I have no fear of the future," remarked a harmless young simpleton. "You should not be too confident," replied Deacon Smith; "from late developments in New York and elsewhere it appears fireproof flats cannot be depended upon in this world. It may be the same in the next."

"Hello, Simmons, you look gloomy." "Yes, got dyspepsia the worst way." "Why, I thought you went to keep your house last week." "So I did, and that's what's the matter." "Why don't you let your wife do the cooking?" "That's just what she is doing—you see she's a graduate of the cooking school."

A Mississippi man who writes for a run-away wife describes her as having "high cheek bones, upper front teeth out, crippled in one foot, cross-eyed, and quick-spoken." One cannot help wondering why the husband didn't run away instead of the wife. He certainly had provocation enough.

The complaint of the mediocre man: "No," said the actor, "I don't say as the critics have ever said anything undkind about my acting; but, to tell you the truth, it is somewhat monotonous to find myself continually included among the rest of the characters' who 'do not call for special mention.'"

Jones—"Now you have had a great deal of experience keeping house on a small income, and I know all about how to economize, don't you?" Smith—"I should say I did." Jones—"Well, now, there's a good fellow; but tell me what you have found the cheapest light to go to bed by." Smith—"Moon-light."

"George," said a girl to her beau the other night, "here is a piece in the paper headed 'Kismet'; what does 'kismet' mean?" "The word must be pronounced with the 'k' silent, Nettie," replied George. "Why, that would be 'kiss me,'" said Nettie. "With the greatest pleasure," replied George. And he did.

"My dear fellow," said a critic, after examining a painting by his artist friend, "do you not see that you have pinned that angel's robe together with a gold brooch? Who ever saw an angel with a brooch?" Artist, after a moment's reflection: "True, but who ever saw an angel without a brooch?" Critic silenced, but feeling that he had not stated his case properly.

"Liza, why didn't yer let Bill Thompson take yer home from the ball last night?" "Kiss, Moll; he done gone an' showed hisself a coward, that's why." "And how did he do dat, Liza?" "Why he had two razors in his pockets, an' I says dar enny fellow what carries more'n one razor to a ball wid him an' a coward an' ain't no gentleman, I does." "Guess you're about right."