

## FOR THE FARMER.

### Fall Feeding Mowing Lands.

No farmer can afford to allow his cattle to feed off the growth of grass in his mowing lands in the fall. It injures the grass roots and diminishes the grass crop the year following, for more than the feed obtained is worth. It is cheaper to buy hay and feed to the stock in the barn than to have them feeding down the mowing fields.

### Fertilizing Lawns.

Heavy dressings of stable manure should never be made to a lawn. Not only does it present a very unsightly appearance when thus treated, but the dressing lying in lumps, as it usually does, is liable to kill out the grass in places, and greatly injure the appearance of the lawn. When any dressing is needed, it is much better to apply in the spring, a light dressing of bone phosphate or guano.

### Green Food for Poultry.

Green food is very necessary to the health of poultry. So eagerly is every green substance devoured by fowls that every green thing is destroyed in the hen yard, unless the yard is very large. It is well to have a large yard divided into two parts, allowing the poultry to occupy one division at a time. By ploughing the unoccupied division and sowing it to grain, a good growth of green food will spring up, which, when a few inches high, is ready for the hens, and will afford them an excellent quality of green food for some time, and it will keep growing as fast as it is eaten off. While the poultry is eating this supply, another growth can be started in the unoccupied portion of the hen yard, and in this way a constant supply of green food can be provided.

### Keeping Apples.

A Pennsylvania farmer who had tried various methods of keeping apples, obtained the best success by wrapping each apple in paper, placing in a barrel, and heading it. He bored holes in the top and bottom so as to allow a free circulation of air, and laid the barrel upon its side in as cool a place as was safe from the frost. The variety of apples was the Fallwaters. On the fifth of May he opened the barrel and found them in most excellent condition. There were only twenty speckled and rotten apples in the barrel, "while the color was beautifully preserved, and the apples had a delicious flavor. They were fresh and beautiful in appearance, without any dampness or moisture. A gentleman present when the barrel was opened, pronounced them the best kept apples he had ever seen. The success seemed to be due to the fact that the paper absorbed all the moisture that was given off by the apples, while the holes in the top and bottom allowed the free circulation of air."

This is a method worth trying for preserving a few apples for home use, but evidently could not very well be practised for preserving large quantities of fruit. When large quantities of fruit are stored for preservation, the best method seems to be to keep down the temperature as near the freezing point as possible without chilling the fruit. Low temperature is the best preservative, and if it could be maintained near the freezing point until midsummer, there would be little difficulty in preserving fruit until that time. Some store in racks, allowing a free circulation of air, and others store in barrels closely headed up. Very good results are obtained by either method.

### Best Way to Seed to Grass.

The old, and still too common, practice of seeding land with grass and grain at the same time may do underspecially favorable circumstances, as when the land is constantly moist, and the grain is sown thinly. It does better, too, in a cool, northern climate, or where the grain is removed late in the season, after the hottest weather is passed. In northern Vermont, we have seen oats being harvested late in September, and cut at that season the grass is not so likely to be killed by hot sunshine after the grain is removed. But in southern New England and western, on the same parallel of latitude, probably at least three-fourths of all the grass sown with grain is seriously injured by being grown with it. We find that Western farmers are learning that grass is worthy of being given a better chance than when sowed with grain.

A writer in the Philadelphia Press, says that farmers in the West seem to be coming to the conclusion arrived at in the East, that grass seeding is best when made alone. The reasons given are that "sowing grass seed with grain crops is on a par with trying to get two crops from the soil in the orchard. No land is rich enough to serve two masters, for either it will have one crop smothered in infancy, or the other choked and robbed in its old age. If you wish a fine catch of grass for a superior meadow, then follow the following: "Get the land in good tilth and well enriched for a crop of wheat, harrow until the surface is perfectly pulverized, and sow the grass seed alone. Farmers make the mistake sometimes of looking upon their cows as machines for producing milk and butter, forgetting that they are mothers every year, and their daughters are soon to take the places of their dams. In like manner, the grain crop is considered the main one on the farm, because this is sold and the grass and hay are not. Without the grass and the hay the grain would be light indeed."

A Wisconsin farmer stoutly maintains that he prevents the ravages of the beetles in his potatoes by planting one or two dazslein each hill. He says the bugs

will shun the flax every time, and that he has grown potatoes in this way for ten years and secured good crops when others failed.

### Mr. Lyman has Stopped Swearing.

The people of Lee Township, about seventy-five miles north of Louisville, Ky., are in a state of excitement over the case of James Lyman. Lyman recently moved into Lee Township. His family consists of a son and two daughters. In early years he was a seaman. When 11 years of age he ran away from his home in Boston, concealed himself in the hold of a ship about to weigh anchor, and was carried off to sea.

On board a vessel Lyman soon learned to swear. As his years increased, his profanity became more voluble. His ship touched many foreign shores, and by frequent associations with the natives he gradually acquired their manner of speech, and in time became the master of four different languages. In all of these he was an adept at swearing. The slightest trifle met with a volley of oaths. Let some one vex him and the air would be perfectly sulphurous with his wicked declamations. When excited his wrath was terrible, and few dared to remain within earshot, while curses and imprecations rolled with mighty vehemence from his tongue.

One day while superintending a force of hands in making a clearing, a silly accident threw Lyman in an excess of passion. Words more blasphemous than ever before uttered rolled from his fluent tongue while he danced about in a perfect paroxysm.

Suddenly the impious de'clamations ceased. Lyman fell, face downward, to the ground, and was unable to move a muscle. A genuine thunderbolt or a bullet through the heart could not have despatched his senses quicker. Sight was destroyed, speech gone, and motion impossible. After thirty minutes' prostration he recovered slightly, but he was unable to regain his lost speech. His eyes were also dimmed. On the arms of two strong laborers he was borne to his house, where he has since been resting in a half-conscious condition.

Devout people in the neighborhood look upon Lyman's calamity as a righteous punishment and a fearful warning against blaspheming. They verily believe that it was a visitation of the wicked man's prolonged sins upon his own head.

### Ice Skating.

Will roller-skating supplant its parent sport? We trust not. But there is no question that runner-skating has been on the decline among us for some years. In Holland, Denmark, and Germany it is universal. There everybody skates, old and young, high and low, rich and poor. Probably its decline here arises from neglect of our ponds. There is skating until the first snow, and after that pains are taken in but few places to clear the ice. There are also no conveniences for putting on skates, taking care of garments, etc. It is both uncomfortable and dangerous to skate in overcoats and cloaks. In Germany and other European countries the public ponds are leased by the cities to parties who, charging small sums to skaters, keep the ice clear and in good condition, and also provide the other facilities mentioned. It would be a good idea to adopt the same course in our cities, while in country towns the organization of skating-clubs might effect the same ends.

### Why the Swiss Can Drink So Much.

Owing to the small portion of moisture in mountain air and the low barometric pressure, evaporation is very rapid. Even after the heaviest rain the ground dries in a few hours. This quality of the air tends to make perspiration more profuse and the skin dries faster than is the case at lower elevations. There is greater thirst, the tissue waste faster, and a high authority has said that a man's tissue is the only thing which it is his duty waste, new tissue being out of all comparison better than old.

It is probable that this rapid evaporation at great heights and the thirst which it engenders that the Swiss have to thank for their wonderful drinking powers. The other week the marksmen of Canton Vaud held their annual rifle meeting at Paynere, a picturesque village on the Broye, and the local papers mention with something like pride that the shooters and their friends drank the place dry.

Everybody who has been in the Highlands of Scotland, or any other mountain land, and tried the experiment, knows that he can drink with impunity much more whiskey, or whatever the vin du pays may be, than he can drink at home. This, it may be as well to observe, is mentioned as a dry fact, not as an additional reason for going to the mountains.

At a recent meeting of the Neurological Society, Dr. C. L. Dana read an interesting paper on spinal concussion and its results. He thought the fact was now established that railway accidents produce severe shocks to the nervous system which impair its activity and sometimes cause hysteria. The sufferers are sometimes as much injured as though they had lost a limb or actually injured the spinal cord. The trouble is to determine how ill such people are, how much they are shamming, how much the prospect of damages affects them, and how many are predisposed to disease, for a road cannot be called to account because it does not provide perfectly for valetudinarians. The term spinal concussion was, the Doctor thought, a misleading and often incorrect one—mental shock and physical bruising expresses the idea better. The prospect of partial recovery from these shocks to the system is good, but not so good as regards complete recovery. Concussion of the cord alone followed by temporary loss of function or by myelitis, does occur in some instances.

## THE WORLD OVER.

M. Pasteur is going to Rio Janeiro to study yellow fever.

Over 5,000 patents on churning have already been granted by the U. S. Government.

A bill is pending before the Alabama Legislature compelling persons carrying concealed deadly weapons to designate the fact on their persons by wearing a badge inscribed "I am armed."

In the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Dr. Klein says that sixty-seven per cent. of Jewish physicians occupy professorships in medical colleges, and thirty-six per cent. are medical authors.

In a recent work entitled "The Health of the Senses," Dr. H. Macnaughton Jones states that "eye troubles are found more frequently in inveterate smokers who abstain from alcohol than those who take some of it."

According to the *Pharmaceutical Record* freckles may sometimes be made to disappear by an application of citric acid night and morning. Dr. Duhring advises an emulsion of almonds, to be applied until a slight amount of desquamation takes place.

Paper from the yucca, a hairy plant found in Arizona, New Mexico, and Lower California, is becoming popular in Great Britain. It is readily bleached, and has a fibre almost as strong as hemp. It can be manufactured at about the same cost as paper made from mixed cotton and linen rags.

There is great trouble in the iron and steel market on account of the alleged practices of English foundrymen of mixing crucible steel with Bessemer, and selling it as the former. The one costs \$56 and the latter \$25 a ton, so that a large profit inures to the adulterator. The Board of Trade desire to have it made a criminal offense.

The *Drug News* notes an important discovery, by which aluminium may be produced in unlimited quantities at \$1.25 per pound, or one twelfth of the price now quoted. The discovery was made by Wm. Frishmuth, of Philadelphia, a pupil of Wohler, the discoverer of the metal itself. Mr. Frishmuth is said to have devoted twenty-eight years to this end.

According to the *British Medical Journal* there was last year an enormous loss to the effective force of the army and navy from intemperance. In the army 1,490 cases of drunkenness were tried by courts martial, besides over 4,000 convictions from crimes springing from excessive drinking. During the year 15,904 soldiers, or 102 in every thousand, were mulcted in their pay for drunkenness.

English physicians have had strong discussions of late as to the truth of Dr. Crichton Browne's report upon over brain pressure in schools and its pernicious effects. The *Lancet* says: "We have grounds for believing that certain well-known depravities which progress with cerebral exhaustion are on the increase among these overworked children. Dr. Browne's protest has the support of the medical profession, and, as a body, we distinctly endorse what he has said."

In northern Siberia, if a young man desires to marry he goes to the father of the girl of his choice, and a price is agreed upon, one-half of which is then paid down. The prospective son-in-law at once takes up his residence with the family of his lady love, and resides with them a year. If at the end of a year he still desires to marry the girl he can pay the other half and they are married on the next visit of the priest. If he does not want to marry he need not, and simply loses the half he paid at the start.

The use of arsenic is alarmingly on the increase. The researches of Dr. Draper and Prof. Wood and Austen show that it is extensively employed in wall papers, textile fabrics, writing and printing paper, candles, toys, confectionery, playing cards, theatre tickets, rubber balloons and balls, sweatbands of hats, paper collars and bed hangings, and in amounts sufficient to cause sickness and even death. Prof. Austen recommends a law prohibiting its use in all materials consumed or employed in the household.

Anton Warning left Chateau, M. T., a short time ago to get logs from the mountains, and not returning within a few weeks, search for him was made by friends, when his body was found beneath a great tree, which had fallen upon him and held him prisoner until death ensued from starvation and cold. After the accident he had written a note and tied it around the dog's neck, telling the particulars of the misfortune, but the faithful animal would not leave his master, and was sitting on the body when it was found, nearly famished.

The public baths at Vienna are said to be the finest in the world. The building is situated in the heart of the city, and encloses a basin of 570 feet in length by 156 feet in width, and varying in depth to twelve feet. The enormous quantity of water contained in this basin is removed three times a day. The whole establishment has accommodation for 1,500 persons, and is open from May 1 to Oct. 31, and from 5 in the morning until dusk. There is also a bath restricted to ladies, open from 9 in the morning until 1; and the Vienna ladies are especially good swimmers.

Dr. O. E. Davies writes to the *Cincinnati Lancet and Clinic* that, having been a sufferer from blood poisoning until he became a total wreck, he visited Las Vegas, New Mexico, took the "mud baths" administered there, and recovered his health. It seems that these baths of mud are made of earth through which the hot mineral waters of the place have percolated for ages. The patient is dropped into a cavity in this earth, and becomes really "poulticed." The doctor should

be familiar with the subject, for he went through the process sixty-eight times.

A doctor was lately brought before the German tribunals for having neglected to keep himself informed as to modern methods of practice. A servant who received a wound in the chest in April last, died from septicemia under the care of this doctor, who, despising antiseptic dressings, treated his patient according to ancient usages. The court held that "every medical practitioner should keep himself informed on the accomplished progress of science, and have an exact knowledge of modern systems of treatment. If these had been employed the patient's life might have been saved, hence the liability for negligence." The Court of Appeal sustained the judgment.

A curious phenomenon was observed recently at the London Zoo. A few weeks since a fine lioness began to eat her own tail. In one day she removed at her leisure about twelve inches, and after a brief interval she resumed her repast and swallowed some more. She was then placed in a very narrow box in the hope that something might be done with the bleeding stump, and that she might be prevented from further assaults upon herself. But she was not to be denied. The tail has almost entirely disappeared, and she has now directed attention to one of her forepaws. If time only is allowed she may succeed in performing the astounding feat of disappearing down her own throat.

## SCIENTIFIC.

A German botanist has given instances of the modification of plants by insects so as to produce new varieties.

A motor driven by small charges of gun-cotton is an English novelty. It is said to be applicable wherever small powers are required.

Successful experiments in distributing the electric light to great distances have been made in connection with the Turin Electrical Exhibition. A Siemens machine of 30 horse-power generated a current which was simultaneously used by several electric systems spread over a circuit of about 25 miles.

WIND WORK.—A gale at East St. Louis in 1871, according to Mr. C. Shaler Smith, overturned a locomotive, exerting a force of no less than 93 pounds per square foot. Below these extraordinary pressures Mr. Smith has instanced numerous cases of trains blown off rails, and bridges, etc., blown down, by gales of 24 to 31 pounds per square foot.

PICTURES OF SOUND.—Some remarkable photographs of a pistol bullet in its flight—under the illumination of an electric spark—have been secured by Prof. E. Mach, of Prague. He has also photographed the air streams which one may see over a Bunsen burner placed in sunshine, and has even obtained pictures of waves of sound; these last being made visible by a method in which advantage is taken of the irregular refraction of light by air set in vibration by sound.

MONEY VEGETATION.—A short time since Paul Reinsch discovered several kinds of minute plants—including two algae which had before been unknown—growing upon coins after having been long enough in circulation to receive thin incrustations of organic matter. A Hungarian botanist, Jules Schaarschmidt, has more recently found the microscopic growths upon paper money, even the cleanest specimens not being free from them. He has detected seven species, including—although they are rare—the two new algae described by Reinsch.

THE THEORY OF VACCINATION.—Prof. Tyndall suggests that just as the soil may be so effectually robbed of some essential ingredient by one abundant crop, as to be incapable of producing another, so in the human system a parasitic disease may so completely exhaust the blood of some ingredient necessary to the growth and propagation of the parasite that the production of a second crop in fatal or considerable quantity may be impossible. It would thus appear that protective vaccination or inoculation is simply the introduction into the blood of weakened and comparatively harmless disease germs to consume the material which might become food for similar in a more vigorous and dangerous condition.

GREAT WORMS.—According to Mr. F. E. Beddard, a London zoologist, earthworms two feet in length have been found in the British Isles, and various species as large or larger are known to exist on South America, Western Africa, Australia and New Zealand. The largest species known, however, inhabits South Africa. Forty years ago a specimen was described which measured six feet two inches in length, but it seems to have been nearly forgotten until the other day, when a gigantic creature of the same species was sent to the London Zoological Gardens from Cape Colony. The longest measurement of this worm yet taken reaches six feet five inches, its diameter being nearly half an inch.

### A Lesson in Astronomy.

They were young and romantic, and although the minute hand was pointing to 12 o'clock they stood upon the porch gazing at the stars.

"That's Jupiter, dear, isn't it?" she murmured.

"Yes, pet, and that is Sirius," he replied, pointing to another star.

"Are you Sirius?" she cooed.

He kissed her several times. Then he pointed upward and said:

"That's Mars, dove."

"And that's pa's," she whispered, as a footsteps sounded inside.

Mr. Spurgeon: "I wish to say that I am not ashamed of anything whatever that I do. I don't think that smoking makes me ashamed, and therefore I mean to smoke."

## PERSONAL ITEMS.

### About More or Less Prominent People.

Campanini owns two hundred and fifty head of cattle in Italy, while he now acts as farmer, wine-maker, miller, silk-grower, linen manufacturer, cattle-dealer, and tenor.

Senator Edmunds is about to build a handsome house in Washington. He has the credit of having driven out all the minor lobbyists who used to lounge about the cloak-rooms of the Senate.

Mr. W. W. Crooran, the philanthropist and banker, though in advanced years, still rides horse back almost daily in the streets of Washington, and was neither scared nor hurt when a vicious mare threw him, not long ago.

Colonel Robert Ingersoll's fee of \$100,000 from ex-Senator Dorsey, for defending him in the Star Route trials, has awakened some interest among the members of the bar; but there are New York lawyers whom such figures do not surprise.

In a recent dramatic criticism Lord Lytton says that actors invite critics to supper, put them on their backs, take them behind the scenes, and open their hearts to them, and that in consequence the critics "behave well" to them.

Senator John Sherman smokes small cigars before a wood fire in his commodious library in Washington, and is an interesting and instructive talker on politics, and perhaps the oldest living authority on matters of national finance.

Mark Lemon, late editor of *Punch*, as described by Mr. Edmund Yates: "He was made for the part. Corpulent, jovial, bright-eyed, with a hearty laugh and an air of bonhomie he rolled through life the outward impersonation of jollity and good temper."

Mr. E. W. Gosse, now on a visit to the States, has been warmly received. He is the Lecturer on English Literature at the University of Cambridge, and is learned in the languages of northern Europe, besides being a poet and literary critic of note. His wife is a sister of Mrs. Alma-Tadema.

Mrs. Rebecca M. Levy, who died recently in New Orleans, was the sister of the late Judah P. Benjamin, in whose house for many years she dispensed a graceful and generous hospitality that many Northern friends of his still remember with pleasure.

Our British cousins are taking very kindly to American periodical literature. More than seventy thousand copies of the December number of the English edition of *Harper's Magazine* were sold within a few days after its publication; and the sale of fifty thousand copies of the first number of the English edition of *Harper's Young People* shows how well that paper is appreciated by the little subjects of Queen Victoria.

On the 3rd inst. Mr. George W. Childs celebrated the twentieth anniversary of his purchase of the Philadelphia Public Ledger from Mr. W. M. Swain. At that time the paper was losing heavily, but through the extraordinary business tact of Mr. Childs it soon became one of the most profitable papers in the country. It is pleasant to read that the man who was foreman of the composing-room under Mr. Swain, and was an important factor in the management of the paper, is living to-day, and is on Mr. Childs's pension list, drawing his salary as though still in working harness.

Miss Mary Gwendolen Caldwell, of New York, who has given \$300,000 to found a Catholic university, was of age last October. She and her younger sister are orphans. Their father was William Shakespeare Caldwell, a Virginian; their mother, Miss Breckinridge, a Kentuckian. Each parent left them a fortune, and they possess about two millions apiece. No young lady, in this country at least, ever made so magnificent an educational endowment. "Personally," she says, "I should prefer to see the university built at the South, for though born and educated at the North, my family are Southerners, and my feelings are Southern."

The valuable paintings belonging to the estate of Mr. Thomas G. Appleton will not be sold, although his furniture and bric-a-brac will. He bought some noble examples of Jean Francois Millet's brush-work when Millet was so little appreciated as to be compelled to beg bread for his children. The taste for Millet's pictures was first awakened in this country by the examples imported by Mr. Appleton and the late Mr. William M. Hunt. Did Alexander the Great die from drink? Dr. Alfred Carpenter says that he did, but a recent essayist reminds the doctor that there is no trustworthy evidence on the subject, and, from the nature of the case, can not be. "I have heard," he continues "that Lord Eldon, who died at the age of eighty-seven, and who certainly suffered neither 'downfall' nor 'ruin,' was accustomed to drink a bottle of port-wine after his dinner every day, except Sundays, when his brother, Lord Stowell, dined with him, and they drank two."

One of the Rothschilds was once upon a time playing cards, when one of the players, a noted miser, let fall a small piece of money, and insisted upon stopping the game while he took the candle and looked for it. Whereupon the great banker, taking a bank note from his pocket, lit it, and handed it to the miserly player, bade him hunt for his money with that.

The following incident has the true Hibernian flavor: A gentleman, wishing to preserve some beautiful ruins on his estate near Belfast from the ravages of passing vandals, employed a contractor to build a wall around them. When the wall was finished the owner came to see it, and was horrified and disgusted to find that the contractor had used every stone of the ruins as material for the wall, which therefore enclosed nothing.