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at's 'Search-Light Lettes to various letters that came ence of his "Reflections of a an" and "The Opinions of a

kers" in a new field-Waickelf, the college man who erer, will tell about his ex sweat-shop laborers

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PRACTICAL FARMING.

MICE IN ORCHARDS.

I don't think I have ever seen so many field mice as there are this season. It seems they are more numerous during drouth and do more damage than at any other time. (However, says a writer, they girdle trees during the winter season, under the snow also, unless the trees have been carefully cared for and protected.

Those who have not done this work yet should not delay one day. Do it to-morrow, especially if there is any rubbish, weeds or grass around your trees-and there is this fall, for spring can put it on. and early summer made a strong growth of vegetation of all kinds. I have no doubt but that there are thousands of apple trees already girdled in them while on the roost. As the flesh Ohio. The drouth was so general and or fat can be sweat off as well as so severe that soon after the first of October there was not a green spear of work. It would seem that they do it more then on account of the absence of anything else green to eat. However, that frequents these points more than they will girdle trees more or less even | elsewhere. when grass is green, if they are as numerous as this season.

It can easily be seen, now since the

think best. Where newly planted market before they are ripe. hundred trees per day. The work highly recommended. should have been done this year dur- Thorough cultivation, early and fre- then put together. When the matermulch drawn back.

fluttering up in the air with his head er. turned to the earth; and presently he darts down like a shot and flies off with a little black thing in his clutches and lights on a stump or fence and dissects

nor vegetation of any kind like cinders little black mounds from snow and gives the trees a safe and comfortable appearance. We get the cinders from mowing, etc. They cost twenty cents

years rusted them to pieces and freezing heaves it up the trees and gives the mice a chance just where they want it. I have tried tarred paper wrapped around the trees. Neither proved satisfactory. String soon rotted off and if wire was used, it would injure the trees. In conclusion I advise the use of cinders if the distance to haul will not make it too expensive.

ALL ABOUT THE CHICKENS

When chickens have been kept growing thriftily from the time they were hatched, it requires but little care to fit them for market by or before Thanksgiving. When they have been fine-grained salt. The presence of the neglected, and have grown but slowly salt should be perceptible to the taste, and are only frames scantily covered with feathers, the task is more diffi-

As a first step toward fattening separate the cockerels from the pullets, and then restrict their range to smaller

To such as will be large enough to my wife I kissed. kill in four or six weeks, give every morning as early as they come from the roost, a mash of cornmeal, warm but not hot, made thick and dry enough to crumble as it is fed out, in which has been mixed dry beef scraps at the rate of a pint to four quarts of meal. If their feed has been principally slippers for Christmas. wheat make the change gradually by reducing the amount of bran and increasing the cornmeal, and do not overfeed at first, giving only what will

meal may be given to vary the feed, but do not feed these or other cooked vegetables too freely. If they have

not grass, cabbage or turnip-leaves may be given until after the regular feeds and in limited quantities. At noon and night give good, sound wheat or corn, the latter being preferable for the last meal of the day, which should be given just before they go to roost. In preparing the mash use boiling

water and cover it up to cook through until cool enough to feed out. Oats and wheat are not as good as corn for fattening. Plenty of clean

gravel and pure water are indispensable for fattening. Guard especially against draughts of cold air such as would blow across the

roosts. A cold at this season will take moisture. off flesh more rapidly than cornmeal A temperature of sixty degrees at

worked off. using kerosene on the roosts and walls, wall, and sometimes it is an improvegrass to be seen here. It was then that and by blowing insect powder among ment if it is allowed to rest upon glass these little rodents commenced their their feathers if necessary. A little blocks. grease on the back of the head and under the wings may be needed to dis- curved side to the room, and its plain

COMMERCIAL PLUM ORCHARD.

In planting a commercial plum orchrains have come, how full they are of ard, location, varieties and manage board should be kept free from dust: fresh clover; how they eat out the ment must be well considered. While crown—in fact kill a large amount of the plum is not so sensitive to location to clean a pianoforte use warm water, it. In spite of care and vigilance we as the peach, it will not bear the neg- soap, and a flannel rag. Wet the lost two trees in October, nine years lect which so frequently falls to the old, and a few planted last spring. The apple. A good elevation is desirable, of the surface at a time. Wet a seccursed things tackle trees this year re- but not absolutely essential to success, and piece of flannel and wipe off the gardless of size-six, eight inches in provided other conditions are favorable, soap thoroughly, and with a piece of diameter—but are usually worse on such as a good soil and thorough drain- chamois skin rub the place perfectly young trees that have no dry, rough in a commercial orchard, but those selected should combine size, quality, and and if the ivory has become yellow with There are many devices to prevent a fine appearance. As a rule, blue and age or usage, this may be whitened by this destruction of trees by mice, and purple plum sell best, as the yellow a good rubbing with fine sandpaper or I shall only mention a few which I varieties are frequently placed on the moist powdered pumice stone.

be removed clean with an iron rake following: Of the dark kinds, Brad- instrument is a most complicated piece in a circle two feet from the trees. For shaw, Duane Purple, German Prune, of workmanship. A grand pianoforte, trees that were not mulched and have Lombard Englebert, Quackenboss; of the which appears to be a solid mass, is no protection, take a sharp hoe, keep yellow sorts, Coe's Golden Drop, Gen- composed of tiny strips of wood laid a file with you to keep it sharp, and eral Hand, Jefferson, Yellow Egg. There together-sometimes twenty layersremove all manner of stuff to the are many other excellent varieties, but like a jelly cake, glued together and lorse ground the same distance as for small the above is a good general list. Of the then veneered. The wood has to be trees. Use the hand if necessary close Japanese plums, Abundance, Burbank, carefully selected and seasoned for

ing the latter part of September. quent spraying, and the jarring sheet Around newly planted trees it is best for curculio, are necessary to success. to throw up a little mound of clean Before the leaves start, go over the or- softly padded hammers of felt generearth, six or eight inches high. In the chard and carefully cut out and burn spring it may be raked down and the all black knot. This is imperative. The trees should receive what pruning they Ordinarily if well done the above an- require before the buds start, and the swers the purpose for one year. Mice first spraying should be given, just as don't girdle trees unless screened from the buds are opening. Corn and potasight. Instinct teaches the little ras- toes may be planted in young orchards, eals of the danger of some sparrow but when the trees come into bearing, hawk's darting down upon them by day they should receive the full use of the greatly toward keeping this represenand screech owls in the night. (By the land. Never sow wheat or oats among tative of labor and money in good conway, it always does me good-and I trees, as they are sure to rob the orch- dition. stop when I see one of these little hawks and of more than they return the own-

STREAKY BUTTER.

If the vessel containing the cream is the blamed varmint!) Mice are not like- exposed to the action of the atmosphere ly to circulate under the snow where a part of the moisture will evaporate don't find the trees when the grass and and a scum or skin will be formed on mulch are kept away from the trunks. and a scum or skin will be formed on For permanent and better work we the top of the cream. This will be put about a bushel of fine cinders broken up in the churning and there around each tree in cone shape. For will be portions of thickened dried cream in the butter. Prevention is and in the winter the wind and a lit- better than any attempt at cure. Let tle sunshine cleans the top of the the cream vessel be covered and by frequent stirring prevent the skin of dried cream. The straining of the cream inthe electric power plant. These are the to the churn is also a good means of finest. We want no clinkers which keeping specks of thickened cream or would roll out and be in the way about curd from finding their way into the butter. Occasionally butter-makers, I once tried wire screen for smallish find the butter full of streaks. That trees. We cut it twelve inches square condition may be due to the retention and roll it on a round stick, open it of portions of the buttermilk in the abush it to the addition of a mass of the butter. The addition of a quart of water for every two gallons of cream, after the granules of butter begin to appear and before the churning is completed will help to bring about a speedy and full separation of the buttermilk. When the buttermilk has been removed th egranular butter should be washed with cold water. In summer the temperature of the water should be about 55 degrees and in winter 60 degrees. In the washing the churn should be revolved a half faster than for the churning. A streaky condition of the butter sometimes results from an imperfect mixture of the salt with the butter. Reworking after the salt is dissolved will correct that but not to the sense of touch.

> ABSENT MINDED. The Maid-You forgot to kiss me this morning, Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones-Dear me, how absent

MEANS FOR PUNISHMENT.

minded I'm getting! It must have been

Willie-That Bobby Brown is a reckless feller. Tommy-What's he done? Willie-Gave his mother a pair of

EAGLE WEARS A VEIL.

be eaten up clean very quickly. Re- without blinking by means of a move the following very quickly. Re- without blinking by means of a The eagle is able to look at the sun have specified as soom as they seem to thin, semitransparent veil, which the bird can draw instantaneously

CARE OF THE PIANO.

It is hardly an exaggeration to say that in every house there is a pianobe used as a green food, but should not forte, and it is not extravagant to say that only one person in five hundred can take the proper care of this instrument.

It should be placed in a dry room, quite away from possible drafts and not too near a fire. Heat not only tends to warp and crack the case, which, being highly inflammable, is apt to ignite, but any increase or decrease of temperature affects the strings and brings them out of tune, exactly as does excessive dryness or excessive

Pianofortes should never be kept open, either; for dust is just as injurnight should be maintained, but they ious as dampness, and, in fact, the air should not be so crowded as to get more is always an enemy to the great mass than that when the glass is held near of strings, the nerves of the instru-

An upright pianoforte sounds better Of course, lice must be kept off by if placed about two inches from the

'A grand piano should stand with its lodge one species of large gray louse side next the wall. Nothing should be placed on the pianoforte.

No musical people ever put vases and ornaments and books upon this shrine of music, for they rattle, absorb the sound, deaden the tone, and worry the performer. The case and the key To make the polish shine, rub the wood latter, rub it on the soap, and apply

Persons who grumble at the expense trees were mulched, the mulch should A good general list will include the of a pianoforte ought to know that the to the trees. Two men can do several Bailey, Satsuma and Willard have been many months and every part is finished separately, numbered, and ials are at hand, six months are occupied to make a good instrument. The ally come from Paris, and are, with all the rest of the mechanism, very expensive. Another fact which adds to the costliness is that no machinery is employed in a piano factory, for everything must be done by a skilled eye, a trained mind and careful fingers. The few hints given above will contribute

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