

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.

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 and early summer made a strong growth of vegetation of all kinds.

It can easily be seen, now since the rains have come, how full they are of fresh clover; how they eat out the crown—in fact kill a large amount of it.

There are many devices to prevent this destruction of trees by mice, and I shall only mention a few which I think best. Where newly planted trees were mulched, the mulch should be removed clean with an iron rake in a circle two feet from the trees.

Ordinarily if well done the above answers the purpose for one year. Mice don't girdle trees unless screened from sight. Instinct teaches the little rascals of the danger of some sparrow hawk's darting down upon them by day and screech owls in the night.

I once tried wire screen for smallish trees. We cut it twelve inches square and roll it on a round stick, open it up and spring it around the trees and chuck it to the ground.

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 or before Thanksgiving.

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

To such as will be large enough to 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 which has been mixed dry fed scraps at the rate of a pint to four quarts of meal.

ORDON, UPPER TOWN.

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 used as a green food, but should not be given until after the regular feeds and in limited quantities.

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 off flesh more rapidly than cornmeal can put it on.

Of course, lice must be kept off by using kerosene on the roosts and walls, and by blowing insect powder among their feathers if necessary. A little grease on the back of the head and under the wings may be needed to dislodge one species of large gray louse that frequents these points more than elsewhere.

COMMERCIAL PLUM ORCHARD.

In planting a commercial plum orchard, location, varieties and management must be well considered. While the plum is not so sensitive to location as the peach, it will not bear the neglect which so frequently falls to the apple. A good elevation is desirable, but not absolutely essential to success, provided other conditions are favorable, such as a good soil and thorough drainage.

A good general list will include the following: Of the dark kinds, Bradshaw, Duane Purple, German Prune, Lombard Englebert, Quackenbush; of the yellow sorts, Coe's Golden Drop, General Hand, Jefferson, Yellow Egg. There are many other excellent varieties, but the above is a good general list.

Thorough cultivation, early and frequent spraying, and the jarring sheet for curculio, are necessary to success. Before the leaves start, go over the orchard and carefully cut out and burn all black knot. This is imperative. The trees should receive what pruning they require before the buds start, and the first spraying should be given, just as the buds are opening.

STREAKY BUTTER.

If the vessel containing the cream is exposed to the action of the atmosphere a part of the moisture will evaporate, and a scum or skin will be formed on the top of the cream. This will be broken up in the churning and there will be portions of thickened dried cream in the butter. Prevention is better than any attempt at cure.

When the butter full of streaks. That condition may be due to the retention of portions of the buttermilk in the 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 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.

ABSENT MINDED.

The Maid—You forgot to kiss me this morning, Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones—Dear me, how absent minded I'm getting! It must have been my wife I kissed.

MEANS FOR PUNISHMENT.

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

EAGLE WEARS A VEIL.

The eagle is able to look at the sun without blinking by means of a 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 piano-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 moisture.

An upright pianoforte sounds better if placed about two inches from the wall, and sometimes it is an improvement if it is allowed to rest upon glass blocks.

A grand piano should stand with its curved side to the room, and its plain 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 board should be kept free from dust: To make the polish shine, rub the wood with an old soft silk handkerchief, and to clean a pianoforte use warm water, soap, and a flannel rag.

Persons who grumble at the expense of a pianoforte ought to know that the instrument is a most complicated piece of workmanship. A grand pianoforte, which appears to be a solid mass, is composed of tiny strips of wood laid together—sometimes twenty layers—like a jelly cake, glued together and then veneered. The wood has to be carefully selected and seasoned for many months and every part is finished separately, numbered, and then put together. When the materials are at hand, six months are occupied to make a good instrument.

THOS. SMITH. N. B.—To ensure a first-class job the hides must be salted as soon as taken

EXACTLY DESCRIBED.

He—What a lovely, fresh complexion Lavinia Farnell has! She—Yes; fresh every morning.



Fifty Years Ago.

Who could imagine that this should be the place where, in eighteen ninety-three That white world-wonder of arch and dome Should shadow the nations, polychrome... Here at the Fair was the prize conferred On Ayer's Pills, by the world preferred. Chicago-like, they a record show, Since they started—50 years ago.

Ayer's Cathartic Pills

have, from the time of their preparation, been a continuous success with the public. And that means that Ayer's Pills accomplish what is promised for them; they cure where others fail. It was fitting, therefore, that the world-wide popularity of these pills should be recognized by the World's Fair medal of 1893—a fact which emphasizes the record:

50 Years of Cures.

Durham Tannery.

Robe Tanning.

Horse Hides, Cow Hides, Dog

SKINS, Etc., Tanned Suitable for ROBES and COATS by the best process, which for Finish and Softness can't be beat.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

THOS. SMITH.

N. B.—To ensure a first-class job the hides must be salted as soon as taken

TESTING STEEL BULLETS.

A new method of testing steel bullets has been devised in Germany. The balls are dropped from a fixed height on to a glass plate set at an angle. If properly tempered they rebound into one receptacle; if they are too soft they drop into another.

Advertisement for Dr. K. & K. medicine, titled 'SINFUL HABITS IN YOUTH'. It describes the effects of youthful excesses on manhood and offers a cure. Includes testimonials and a list of symptoms like 'SYPHILIS EMISSIONS STRICTURE CURED' and 'IMPOTENCY VARICOCELE EMISSIONS CURED'.

Advertisement for Webster's International Dictionary. It is described as 'The One Great Standard Authority' and 'The Best for Everybody'. It includes a small illustration of the dictionary.

Advertisement for Burdock Blood Bitters. It claims to be 'the most natural action on the stomach, liver, bowels and blood of any medicine known'.

Advertisement for Durham Tannery, Robe Tanning, and Horse Hides. It lists various services and products offered by Thos. Smith.

Advertisement for Charter Smith, Durham Foundryman. It lists various machinery and repair services.

Advertisement for A. Gordon, Jewelers. It lists various jewelry items and services.

Advertisement for Dr. LeRoy's Female Pills. It is described as 'The only reliable and trustworthy preparation known' for women's health.

Advertisement for a drug store, mentioning 'Emulsion' and 'Cil with Hypo'.

Advertisement for Ribner's Magazine for 1898. It features a 'Heat Program' and various articles.

Advertisement for 'The Search-Light Letters' and other literary works.

Advertisement for 'The Jewelers' and 'The Newest' jewelry items.