

Mulches.

BY THE REV. E. F. POWELL.

We visited an enthusiastic old friend, whose soil was profuse with weeds, and especially good solid purple. These he had carefully pulled and buried. We said to him: "Your raspberries are blistering. Your young grapes are suffering from drought. Your pear trees are dried and parched. Your weeds would have served a capital purpose as a mulch about them. Indeed, among my berries I would rather have creeping weeds growing than have the ground cracked with heat. Weeds can always be utilized by fitting an armpit about the nearest tree. Then spread them and trample them down tightly. For summer they are one of the best possible mulches.

"Then drive to your wood shed or wood-pile, or the nearest sawmill, and scrape up a few loads of rotting sawdust, and fine-cut chips. Large chips serve as hiding-places for evil disposed bugs and slugs. If this sawdust is fresh, run it through your stable as bedding. It has the advantage of being free from seeds and is specially adapted to your evergreens. Nothing is better for an arbor vitae or hemlock hedge, or for a bed of Rhododendrons or Kalina, than a thick mulch of sawdust. It is almost equally good for pears and apples.

The value of ashes from anthracite coal cannot be easily overestimated. They serve as mulch when no stimulant is desired. They lighten the soil. They retain moisture on grassland. But, above all, they are valuable about trees attacked by borers. The writer has seen them piled about ash-trees which were on the high road to destruction, but are now in restored vigor. It is the best application, well pressed down, about apple trees. It is equally valuable under gooseberries and about raspberries.

Barren ground should be used, like all rich composts, very sparingly about fruit trees. Cherries and pears especially need to grow slowly to carefully ripen wood and prevent cracking of the bark. Stimulating manures may be used only when the tree shows feeble vitality or almost cessation of growth.

Straw, hay, and material that can be used in winter by mice should, if used, be trodden closely, and, before cold weather, be covered with soil or removed. As a temporary resort it is sometimes useful. It is especially well to gather up the waste and trodden straw from yard or stock and use it among raspberries and strawberries.

Finally, a capital mulch is providently furnished in autumn in the leaves that drift in corners and groves. Take them when damp and use them for covering in winter. They are intended to serve in summer for shade, in winter to protect the roots of trees. If run through the stable as bedding, they are vastly improved for almost all purposes.

Success in raising cannot be attained without skill in the use of mulches. The old rule of Abernethy for the health of human being is equally good for trees: "Head cool; feet warm."—N. Y. Independent.

When a woman joins a gymnasium it is a sure sign that she is going to be married.

No true gentleman will ask a lady if her coat jewelry is made of sealing wax.

Poorly fed fowls give inferior eggs; just as cows on poor pastures yield sky-blue milk and little cream. Fowls never do better than when they have free range and access to grass or roots, which they consume abundantly, together with insects, seeds of weeds and grains.

A BLACK MAN'S RECIPE TO DRESS RICE.—Wash him well much wash in cold water; the rice flour make him stick. Water boil all ready very fast. Throw him in; rice can't burn; water shake him too much. Boil him quarter of an hour, or little more; rub one rice in thumb and finger; if all rub away, him quite done. Put rice in colander; hot water run away. Pour water on him, put back rice in sauce-pan, keep him covered near the fire; then rice all ready. Eat him up!

To make a good tea biscuit take one quart of sifted flour, one heaping teaspoonful lard, one level teaspoonful salt; milk and water mixed, half each, about two-thirds of a pint; two teaspoonfuls Dooley yeast powder. Mix the flour and salt and powder together, then rub the lard well in until no lard can be seen; add the mixed milk and water, stir till together with a spoon; knead until smooth, roll out about half an inch thick, cut with a cutter and bake in a quick oven.

A sheep's head nicely cooked is a very palatable dish, and to cook it nicely here's a recipe:—Steep the head for two or three hours, then split it, take out the brains and tongue, boil the head gently for three hours with a few carrots, onions, a stick of celery, a bundle of sweet herbs, a few cloves, whole pepper, and salt to taste, then bread-crumbs, and brown the head slightly in front of the fire. Mince the lights, cut the liver in slices, and fry them; boil the brains in a piece of muslin. In dishing up, put the mince on a dish, then the head opened out, the tongue cut into slices, the brains divided into four, and the slices of liver arranged artistically all round; judicious seasoning is essential.

"Clothes-moths are always worse in the summer," writes the Rev. J. G. Wood, "than in any other period of the year; but there is one plan by which they may be baffled. It is simple, but useful from its very simplicity, and may be expressed in two words—'brown paper.' There is no such protection against the clothes-moth as brown paper. Annually thousands of valuable seal-skin jackets and other furs are handed over to the dealers for preservation during the summer, and nothing is done except wrapping them up in brown paper and letting them be until the dawning of autumn. There are, of course, instances where furs and other similar articles must of necessity be left exposed during the summer time. Let every piece of wool or fur be violently shaken every morning, and after three or four days it will be free from them."

The Products of Cyprus.

Copper is the chief metallic wealth of Cyprus; it is said to have once produced gold, silver, and emeralds. What is called the diamond of Paphos is a species of rock crystal, found near that place. In this same vicinity is produced the celebrated *amianthus*, or mineral cloth, famed among the ancients for its incombustibility, flexibility, whiteness, and delicate fibrous structure. Red jasper and amber are also productions of Cyprus. The slopes of the mountains are thickly clad with woods of oak, pine, cypress, beech, and elm, together with groves of olives, and plantations of mulberries. Myrtles, various evergreens, and imnumerable sweet-scented flowers, adorn the northern sides of the range and the narrow belt at its foot. Hyacinths, anemones, ranunculuses, the single and double flowered narcissus grow spontaneously, and deck the hill slopes, valleys, and plains; giving the country the appearance of an immense flower-garden, and regaling the sense of smelling with delightful odours. The vegetable productions are vines, olives, cotton, lemons, oranges, apricots, and others congenial to the climate and soil. Cyprus has always been famous for its wines, which are of two kinds, red and white, made from grapes superlatively rich and luscious, their juice resembling a concentrated essence. These wines, however, are unpalatable to British taste, by their sickly sweetness, which it requires almost a century to remove. They are strongly aperient, and must be drunk with caution. In colour, sweetness, and other properties, Cyprian wine strongly resembles Tokay wine. It is supposed to be perfect at forty years old, when kept in casks covered at the bung-hole with a thin sheet of lead. Its qualities are then considered as truly balsamic. All the valuable kinds are white, and the red is the common wine. Sugar canes were anciently very abundantly cultivated, till they were all burned by a Turkish pacla. The cotton is the finest in the Levant. Of the cerealia, wheat is the chief, and of superior quality; but there is little or no capital in the hands of the peasantry, and the exportation of wheat is a monopoly, shared between the moussellim and the Greek archbishop, who export or retail at an advanced price the whole annual produce, which they purchase at an arbitrary valuation. More than once during the war in Spain, the whole of the grain produce was purchased of the merchants above mentioned by the merchants of Malta, and exported, leaving the people without a morsel of bread. Game abounds in this island, as partridges, quails, woodcocks, and snipes; but here are no wild animals, except foxes and hares, but many kinds of serpents, especially the asp, whose bite is said to have caused the death of the infamous Cleopatra. All kinds of domestic animals and fowls are bred here, where the natives boast that the produce of every land and every clime will not only flourish, but attain even the highest point of perfection. Cyprus is noted for its manufactures of leather, printed cottons, and the second for the permanency of their colours, which become brighter by washing. The carpets are of excellent workmanship, and though barely large enough for an English hearth, bring from 40 to 50 piastres a piece.—*Spectator*.

Why is a leaky barrel like a coward?—Because it runs.

When your straw hat needs bleaching, first scrub it well in water, softened with borax, using very little soap; then rinse it in borax water, using a teaspoonful of powdered borax to a basin of water; bleach it in the sun for two or three days; if the hat is very yellow, a little lemon juice rubbed on will prove more effective.

The way to make a good English plum-pudding is to take three cups of bread-crumbs, one cup brown sugar, three eggs, one cup nicely-chopped beef-suet, nearly one cup sweet milk, two cups chopped beef-suet, nearly one cup sweet milk, two cups chopped raisins, two teaspoonfuls baking powder, one cup flour; a little salt; cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg to taste. Steam or boil three hours.

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