

To CLEAN COAT-COLLARS.—Take a piece of ammonia-stone (carbonate of ammonia) the size of a walnut and put it in a cup of warm water. When dissolved, take a piece of clean flannel and dip it in the solution and rub the collar two or three times with it. It will also remove the glossy appearance along the seams and upon the elbows.

To POISON FOXES.—For the benefit of poultry raisers, I will give the following:—“Procure a young chick, about the size of a robin. Make a small incision under the wing, just through the skin, and insert a dose of strychnin; tie the chick to a stake with a thread outside of the coop where the fox has been in the habit of visiting, and his next visit will be his last. The reason for using live bait is this: the fox prefers to kill his own game—to be sure that he is always getting it fresh. If the bait should not be called for, care should be taken to dispose of it, as it would prove sure death to the animal eating it.”
—*Farmer's Union.*

DURING last month, the officers of the Fishmongers' Company seized at Billingsgate, and destroyed no fewer than 63 tons 12 cwt. of fish, as unfit for human food. All of it had been brought there by rail. Of this quantity, there were 116,759 plaice, 10,090 haddocks, 8,100 smelts, 8,200 whiting, 37 brill, 1 catfish, 3 coalfish, 441 cod, 360 crabs, 4,000 dabs, 122 hake, 1,800 herrings, 2 ling, 108 lobsters, 263 mackerel, 1,200 “pollocks,” 1339 soles, 620 thornbacks, and 146 turbot, making 153,561 fish in all; and, in addition, 2 bushels of cockles, 2 of mussels, 5 of periwinkles, and 2 of whelks, 762 gallons of shrimps, and 400 lbs. of eels.

Some of the California exchanges want to call their farms “Farms,” and not “Ranches;” the latter name being too suggestive of greasers, long-horned Spanish cattle, a tumble-down shanty, a corral, with the fence covered with rawhides, and a middle-aged “tar-face” jerking beef! The word does not at all describe the well-cared for farm, all fenced in, and stocked with blooded horses, cattle or sheep. “The Farm” sounds so much better.

—I want to be a Granger,
And with the Grangers stand—
A horny-fisted farmer,
With a hay-stack in my hand.

Beneath the tall tomato tree,
I'll swing the glittering hoe,
And smite the wild potato bug,
As he skips o'er the snow.

I've bought myself a Durham ram,
And a gray alpaca ewe,
A lock-stitch osage orange hedge,
And a patent leather plough.

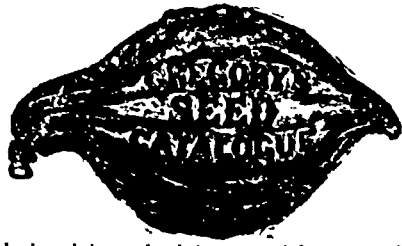
TRADES OF ANIMALS.—It has been well remarked by a clever author that bees are geometers. The cells are so constructed as, with the least quantity of material, to have the largest sized spaces and the least possible interstices. The mule is a meteorologist. The topedo, the ray and the electric eel are electricians. Whole tribes of birds are musicians. The beaver is an architect, builder and wood-cutter; he cuts down trees, and erects houses and dams. The marmot is a civil engineer, he not only builds houses, but constructs aqueducts and drains to keep them dry. The ant is a soldier, and maintains a regular standing army. Wasps are paper manufacturers. Caterpillars are silk-spinners. The squirrel is a ferryman; with a chip or a piece of bark for a boat, and his tail for a sail, he crosses a stream. Dogs, wolves, jackals, and many others are hunters. Black bears and herons are fishermen. Ants are day-laborers. Monkeys are rope-dancers.

BUILDING STONE AND FIRE.—In a recent article treating of the resistance to fire offered by the various kind of stone used in building, Dr. Adolf Ott asserts that the presence of magnesia in limestone (magnesian limestone, dolomite) hastens the decomposition of the mass under the action of heat, the magnesia parting with its carbonic acid at the comparatively low temperature of 600° Fahrenheit. Common limestone will stand a higher temperature without decomposition. It appears that in Chicago, and probably also in Boston, the sandstones made the most obstinate resistance to the heat. This is explained by the fact that the chief ingredient in stones of that class is quartz, a substance remarkable for its infusibility. As for granite, gneiss, mica slate, and other rocks of the primary formation, which are commonly esteemed indestructible, Dr. Ott shows that they can make but feeble resistance to heat. The water enclosed in such rocks accounts for their bursting and exploding when heated. Portland cement stone is said to show extraordinary resistant power, almost equalling sandstone in this respect. Of brick walls the author is disposed to think well, provided they be honestly built of hard material throughout, and of the requisite degree of thickness.

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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

THE FIELD.
Water on the Farm 418
Picking and Packing Hops..... 413
English Farmers L lectured..... 414
Potato Blight and Rot 414
Roots as Manure 411
Wasted Trouble 414
Reducing Bones 414

GRASSES & FORAGE PLANTS.
The Uses of a Grass Crop..... 415
Orchard Grass for Permanent Pasture 416
Red Top Grass 416
Timothy..... 415

IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY:
Portable Scaffoldug 415
Punching Holes in Straps..... 416
Straw-Cutters (Illustrated)..... 416
Using Nails..... 416
Barometers for Farmers..... 416

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY:
Nature's Laboratory (continued) 417
Farm-yard Manure..... 418

HORTICULTURE:
THE ORCHARD:
Effects of the past Winter on Fruit Trees in Iowa 419
How to Protect Fruit from Birds 419
Keeping Apples in Sawdust..... 419
Fruit in Persia..... 419

THE ORCHARD HOUSE:
Peaches and Nectarines 419
Items..... 419

THE FRUIT GARDEN.
Fungoid Disease of Plums 420
The Ithica Grape..... 420
The California Grape Crop 420
The Economics of the Cranberry Crop 420

INDOOR PLANTS:
The Walking Fern..... 420
Cattleya Trientalis..... 420
Myoporum Album..... 421
Lagerstrœmia indica Rosae..... 421
Items..... 421

THE DAIRY:
Fine Butter in a Private Diary..... 421
Humbug..... 421

POULTRY YARD:
Standard Characteristics and Traits in General 422
“Blood” in Breeding—What it is, and what it does..... 422
The Pintado, or Guinea Fowl..... 423
White Leghorn Fowls..... 423
To Manago Hen Manure..... 423

EDITORIAL:
The Twin Evils of Canadian Farming 424
The Late Charles Stevenson..... 424
The Transportation of Grain..... 425
Value of Pea Straw as Fodder..... 425
N. Y. State Dairymen..... 426

AGRICULTURAL INTELLIGENCE:
The Scotch Crops..... 425
“Big Wages” in America 426
Recent Sales of Stock 426
Scottish Agriculture in the Seventeenth Century 426
Prize Farms..... 426
The Duchesses..... 427
Bursting of an Irish Bog 427
The Western Wheat Crop..... 427

BREEDER AND GRAZIER:
The General Principles of Breeding 427
How to use a Ram..... 427
How to Raise the Young Horse 428
Cure for Kidney Worm and Mange..... 428
What is Thorough-bred? 428
Largo Short-horn Calf..... 428
Short-Horn or Durham 428
To Open a Cow's Teat..... 428
Contracted Feet in Horses..... 429
Horse Taming by a Mexican..... 429
Jersey Stock..... 429

THE APIARY:
Farmers should be Bee keepers 429
Agassiz on the Honey Bee..... 429
Bees and King-birds..... 429

ENTOMOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT:
Sembling..... 430
Tent-Caterpillars 430
The Potato Beetle varying its Food 430
Agricultural Ants 430
Walking Stick, or Spectro 430

MISCELLANEOUS:
Peruvian Guano Deposits..... 430
Superstition among Farmers..... 431
A Convenient Way to Measure Land 431
How Raisins are Manufactured 431
Dangers of Well-water..... 431
The Lumber Trade..... 431
Items..... 431
Advertisements, &c 432

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