

CURRENT TOPICS.

The European countries which export timber are Russia, Sweden, Austria-Hungary, Finland, Norway and Bosnia-Herzegovina. They send out considerable quantities annually, Russia leading with 9,500,000 cubic yards, but the demand of the continent as a whole exceeds its supply, so that it imports heavily. The imports of England, Germany and France are greater by some twelve million cubic yards than the exports of Russia, Sweden and Austria-Hungary. England alone imports more than sixteen million cubic yards, and a writer for The Contemporary Review shows that in spite of the beautiful forest preserves which tourists admire she is almost a treeless country. Only 4 per cent. of her total land area is covered with trees, against Russia's 61 per cent., Germany's 33 per cent. and France's 12 per cent. The same writer speaks of the diminishing supply in North America and the prospects of a timber famine in this part of the world, and adds: "But the worst is that there are no really valuable forests to fall back upon, for although large areas of woodland are to be found in China, Korea and South America, their timber is, on the whole, unsuitable to our requirements. Australia, China and Japan do not produce sufficient timber for their own wants."

However, there is hope even for England, where the conditions are so bad, if the country would only take up the question of afforesting intelligently. It is shown that much waste land, land that now counts for nothing, might be made productive by the planting of trees, and the purchase of such land and the planting are urged upon the government. That there would be no risk in the undertaking is indicated by references to the gratifying returns that have been received from various plantations in recent years and to the success of such enterprises in Germany and Belgium.

Estimates recently embodied in reports from abroad indicate that the United States is the chief exporting country, and put the valuation of the annual importations of lumber by the nations of the world at \$255,000,000 annually. We present a summary that contains also percentages on standing timber which differ somewhat from those first quoted:

Only four per cent. of the territory of Great Britain is covered with forests, and during the year 1906 that country imported lumber to the value of \$135,561,750. Germany still has 28 per cent. of its territory covered by forests, but imported in 1906 lumber valued at \$61,255,000. Belgium and the Netherlands, that have but 5 per cent. forest lands, Denmark that has 10 per cent., France and Switzerland, with a small percentage, are all compelled to import lumber.

The reports show also that imports are necessary in Asia, Africa and South America and emphasize the need of preservation and new planting. That we should give heed to these lessons from Europe is clear. Waste should be avoided and the subject of afforesting should receive close attention.

HEALTH HINTS.

Home Remedy.—For canker or sore mouth burn a cornob and apply the ashes two or three times a day.

Ammonia applied to the bites of insects, such as fleas, mosquitoes, etc., will stop the itching at once. Never forget to put a pinch of salt into every bottle of food baby takes; it is most necessary for its health.

Old Cure for Stiff Joints.—Although this cure is a very old one it has been successfully used in a case where the tendons attached to the knee were drawn so badly that it was feared that the knee joint would always remain inflexible. This patient's knee was left in said condition as the effects of the white swelling in that limb when he was a boy. The remedy was this: Put angle worms into a bottle and bake or hang them in the hot sun, and they will become oil; use this oil on the parts affected as you would use any liniment.

THE POOR MILKMAN AGAIN.

The milkman was boiling over with indignation. "And you mean to say my milk don't lock right?" he snapped. "Why, lady the can of milk is a picture."

"Yes," laughed the keen milkman, "a fine water color."

YOUNG FOLKS

A FLOWER-GARDEN.

Peter O'Brien was happy. He was a ten-year-old boy, with a freckled face and patched clothes. His feet were bare, his cap was torn; but the sun was warm, the sky was blue, and he was gay as the robin singing in the maple-tree across the street. Peter was digging with a stick in the bare, brown earth by the side of the little board walk that led to his front-yard gate. He was pretending to make a flower bed.

Down the street came Miss Ray, Peter's teacher when school kept. It was the spring vacation now. "Good morning Peter!" she said. "What are you planting?"

"Roses," said Peter, "and pansies. This stick is a rose-bush—red roses. These stones in a row are pansies."

"Why don't you plant some seeds?"

"I haven't any money to buy them," said Peter.

"You may come over this afternoon for an hour to clear up my yard, and I'll pay you ten cents," said Miss Ray. "Then you can buy a package of mixed flower seeds—'Wild Garden Seeds,' they are sometimes called. I'll show you how to fix the ground and plant the seeds. You can't get roses and lilies that way, but you can get pansies and ever so many other kinds of flowers."

Peter's whole face smiled as he said, "Thank you, Miss Ray." Then he looked doubtfully at the stick he was digging with. "It won't make a very big hole," he said.

"It doesn't take a big hole to plant seeds in," said Miss Ray. "but the ground has to be dug up first to make it loose and soft, so the tiny rootlets can push through it. I'll take my spade and rake this afternoon, and we'll see what you can do."

Every day after that Peter worked in his garden, and every day Miss Ray came to see how he was getting along. First, he spaded up every bit of the garden so it was loose and soft as far down as his spade could reach. Next, he sprinkled on some plant-food which Miss Ray let him pay for by working in her garden. Then he raked his flower-bed until it was smooth and fine. Then, O joy! it was ready for the seeds.

The seeds were of all shapes and sizes. There were more than twenty different kinds. Miss Ray and Peter sorted them by their size, and separated those that had many of a kind. There were a great many kinds which neither Miss Ray nor any of the neighbors knew.

Peter planted the big seeds far apart along by the fence; he planted the middle-sized ones in rows or clusters through the middle of the bed; the tiny seeds he planted near the walk. For the big seeds he made a hole one or two inches deep, and dropped one seed in each hole. The middle-sized ones he put in little holes near together, from one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch deep. The tiny ones he mixed with a handful of earth and sprinkled on the ground, then covered them with a newspaper held down with stones until the sprouts appeared.

Over the big seeds Peter pressed the ground with his foot, to make it firm on top, so the air could not get in to dry the seeds. Over the middle-sized seeds, he firmed the earth with a little board like a shingle. Over the tiny seeds he patted the ground gently with his hands.

One of the neighbors, seeing how hard he was working, gave him a small watering-pot, and Miss Ray explained that he must sprinkle the ground night and morning, enough to keep it damp, until the plants were up, then water it every day unless it rained.

When the flower plants sprouted, weeds came up, too, and these Peter had to pull up without disturbing the flowers. Miss Ray showed him which were weeds—chickweed, pigweed, sorrel, dandelion, plantain, clover and witchgrass. "These are the most common," she said, "but there are others that will show they are weeds as they grow. We can't be sure at first which are weeds where mixed seeds are planted."

It was hard to have to pull up some of the seedlings, too, but Miss Ray explained that the middle row must be thinned out to as much as three inches apart, to give each plant room to grow.

All summer long the seedlings grew and blossomed, and when frost-time drew near Miss Ray helped Peter dig up a dozen burden plants, put them in pots, and carry them to the schoolroom, where they bloomed nearly all winter long.

"I didn't suppose you could buy a whole flower-garden for ten cents," said Peter.

"You can't," laughed Miss Ray, "but ten cents' worth of seed, a bit of land, and a boy who is willing to work, all together, can make a garden that is fit for a king."

YOUTH'S COMPANION.

Perhaps the loafer thinks his is the only simple life.

WAR ON CRIME IN LONDON

CENTRAL DETECTIVE ORGANIZATION IS PROPOSED.

Slueth Speaks of Necessity of More Extended Work of Scotland Yard.

The proposal for a central detective organization in London to deal with important crimes in any part of the country meets with strong approval from many expert criminologists.

The opinion of some of the keenest brains in Scotland Yard may be summed up in the following words by a world-famous detective:—"The proposal, as I understand it, is that Scotland Yard, or a central organization in London, should take immediate and complete control of the investigation of important crimes in any part of Great Britain. There may be practical objections which make the proposal impossible; there is not the slightest doubt, in my mind at least, that such a system, if it could be brought into working order, would be of the greatest value in the elucidation of great criminal puzzles."

LOCAL POLICE NOT EXPERTS. "At present it is possible for the local police to call in the assistance of Scotland Yard, and they generally do so only after the lapse of a day or so. In the meantime, they have done their best to solve the mystery themselves, incidentally often destroying what might be valuable clues. How can it be otherwise? They may be the most intelligent of men in all ranks, but a great crime mystery come possibly only once in their lives. At Scotland Yard men are dealing with them every week.

"The sooner an expert can get on the scene and take charge the better, but he had better be there after the lapse of a dozen hours than not at all. Let me give an illustration of what happens in the case of a London mystery, and then compare it with the course of action in a country place when the local police make investigations.

"Assume that a man is found dead, apparently murdered, in a London house and a policeman is called in with the doctor. A glance shows life to be gone. The constable's duty is to touch nothing, but to communicate instantly by telephone with Scotland Yard. Within a few minutes a motor car will leave the yard containing perhaps a dozen or more commissioners.

On arrival at the scene great care is exercised not to disturb the smallest thing until detective photographers have taken pictures of the body showing its position and pictures of various parts of the room, so as to have a record of the actual position of everything. Then, with the utmost care, detectives with magnifying glasses will proceed to examine the bedpost, the walls, the doors, the window frames—indeed, every square inch where a mark might be found. Finger prints are, of course, the great thing sought for. Those finger prints have brought many criminals to justice.

LIKELY TO DESTROY CLUES. "Now think of the local policeman who, in the excitement of his first murder scene, finds a revolver a dozen yards from the body. Is it conceivable that he will not instantly pick it up, and thus unwittingly destroy those practically invisible finger marks on the weapon which might have led to detection?"

"That is but one instance where it is so easy for the inexperienced to blunder. Now, after the doctor has found the victim to be dead, a ring should be formed round the scene, within which no one, not even the police themselves, should be allowed to enter till the expert arrives."

GOOD ADVICE. An aged Scot told his minister that he was going to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. "And while I'm there," said the pilgrim, complacently, "I'll read the Ten Commandments aloud from the top of Mount Sinai."

"Saunders," said the minister, "take my advice. Bide at home and keep them."

SAID UNCLE SILAS. Borrow money of yer friends an' yer betcher boots yer friendship ends.

"Now, John," said an irate wife to her husband, "I thought you said you had been duck-shooting."

"Yes, dear—been duck-shooting."

"But these you've brought home are tame ducks." "Yes, dear; I tamed 'em after I shot 'em."

Tradesman (wearing by the importance of commercial traveler)—"For goodness' sake take yourself off."

Your everlasting persistence is enough to make a fellow cut his throat. Irrespressible Traveller.

"Ah, now, sir, we shall do a bit of business. In addition to the things I represent a first-class firm of cutlers. Let me show you samples of my razors."

HEALTH

THE DANGER IN WATER.

So much has been written on the danger of impure drinking-water, and so many epidemics of typhoid fever have been traced to this source, that it seems almost needless to utter a warning against the use of "raw" water when there is the slightest suspicion that such water may not be absolutely pure. Yet so strong is the force of conservatism and so impatient are many with the seeming overcaution of modern sanitary teaching that the warning, and the reasons for it, cannot be too often repeated. If such warning is heeded by only one family, and a visitation of typhoid fever is thereby averted, it will have been well worth while.

The water-supply of every large city, taken from a river, a lake, or a number of streams, unless there is a system of sand filtration at the reservoir, is never absolutely safe. A single case of typhoid fever on the banks of the river, or of any of the small streams which contribute to the supply, may contaminate the water and give rise to other cases lower down on the stream; and the aggregate of pollution in the water may soon render dangerous the city supply to which it contributes.

The course of the underground water-flow is so erratic that the country dweller can never be sure that his well, however securely situated it may seem to be, may not become fouled with seepings from his own or his neighbor's cesspool.

Typhoid fever, not to mention other diseases which may be spread by means of the water-supply, is, it should be remembered, a contagious disease, but this is only because there are more people in a city, and so the number of cases is larger, and the number attracts attention. In almost every case, the exception being so rare that they need not be considered, the infection is brought from the country, either in the water-supply or in the bodies of those who got it while staying in the country by quenching their thirst from "the old oaken bucket" of sentimental fame.

There are, it is true, other means by which the infection is spread—flies, for example, which may carry the germs from the sick-room to the kitchen or dining-room. This is probably the most effective means for the spread of typhoid in military camps. Salads or vegetables, eaten raw, may be contaminated either from water or from manure used as fertilizer; and the germs may sometimes be found in oysters fattened at the mouths of rivers or bays into which city sewers discharge. Nevertheless, the most common mode of the spread of typhoid and dysentery is through the medium of water; and the wise man will avoid the danger by boiling every drop of water used for drinking and for cooking purposes.

YOUTH'S COMPANION.

QUEER FOOD FOR STOCK

DIETS MORE VARIED TO-DAY THAN FORMERLY.

Horses are Particular as to What They Eat—Goats Will Devour Anything.

In days when fewer turnips were grown and when oats cost a good deal more than they do now—a days farmers often found it difficult to winter their stock. On some Scottish farms you may still see an old "whin-mill," which was used for crushing "whins" or furze for cattle food, says Pearson's Weekly.

The furze was cut green, and the sharp needles crushed by passing them through the mill. The latter was made of stones, very heavy ones, and the result was feed which if not nourishing, at any rate, kept the animals alive until the spring grass began to shoot.

To-day the choice of food for live stock of all descriptions is far more varied than ever it was, yet there are plenty of hill ponies, wintering out on the moors of Wales and Devonshire, which are only too glad to graze on the furze shoots which push their prickly heads above the snow.

Horses are more particular as to what they eat than are cattle, and hay, grain, bran, and beans remain their staple foods. But there are

MANY PATENT FOODS. Small amounts of which are very useful to keep horses and other animals in good condition. One of these is composed of a mixture of pent prepared in a special way, and these are used in the form of a good one, as many farmers have proved.

The only seeds of certain plants are used in enormous quantities to fatten stock for market, and also for the feeding of milch cows. Linseed, which contains about 35 per cent. of oil, is used, mixed with oat

straw or with hay. Cattle are very fond of it.

Tens of thousands of tons of cotton seed are sent all over the world from the United States and Egypt to be made into cake for cattle, and about two pounds a day given mixed with maize or barley increases the yield of milk, and keeps cows in condition.

By-products from breweries play a large part in the bill-of-fare of modern live stock. "Malt combings" are very good for sheep, and for milch cows. These are chiefly composed of malted barley, and fetch a very good price. "Brewers' grains" have got a bad name, because town dairymen use them to get a big yield of very poor milk. Yet mixed in a proper proportion with other food, they are quite wholesome and very useful.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS.

It is often a difficult matter to find a sufficient variety of foods during late winter and early spring for sheep and their lambs, and it is no unusual thing to find a flock of sheep and lambs feeding contentedly on bushels of Brussels sprouts which have been given them by the farmer by way of a change.

In some parts of the country fern is still used as feed. It is boiled for the use of pigs. But it has no great feeding value, and though vast quantities of bracken are cut and dried nearly all of it is used as bedding.

Another queer cattle food is seaweed. Several of the algae or green seaweeds are eaten, and evidently liked by cattle. You may see the animals browsing on them at low tide on the West Coast of Ireland and on some parts of the Scottish coasts. Newfoundland cows are said to eat fish, but this story should be taken with a grain of salt.

Very many different plants are now grown to furnish fodder for live stock. One of the latest is the prickly comfrey, an English wild plant till lately looked on as a weed. It grows to a height of four feet, and has given the gigantic yield of forty tons of green feed to the acre. Prickly as the leaves are, all horses eat it greedily, and it makes their coats beautifully glossy.

THE HORSE CHESTNUT.

is not so called because it is used as horse feed. The name is supposed to be derived from the hoof-like shape of the end of the twig when the leaves fall. Yet the nuts have been crushed and used to feed horses, though only small quantities can be given at a time.

In one case pigs were fed on horse peaches. This was in the South of Ireland. The owner of the animals was wealthy and enterprising, and sooner than sell or give away the surplus of his hot-houses, he fed the pigs with it. In California, that land of fruit, it is common for pigs to be fed on the over-ripe or spoiled fruit, that of the prune plum especially. The latter gives the pork a most delicate flavor, so that the meat fetches a higher price than ordinary pork.

Sheep, as is well known, will eat a larger variety of plants than any domestic animal, except the goat. In Australia, when grass runs short from drought, the owners of sheep-runs cut down the bottle tree, and split the wood. The sheep eat both the foliage and wood, and on this curious diet some at least are tided over to better times.

There is diversity in footwear. New walking boots are of suede in tan, smoke, blue, or green, and there are combinations of suede with patent leather or tan Russian calf.

One of the beautiful novelties in furs is the new prierot ruff or choker cravat. It has a ribbon frill all around the top, and hooks at the back with a big bow ribbon.

Figured and striped designs dominate in the short skirt costumes. In the recently imported pongee and rajah fabrics there are many exquisite two tone effects in blue, gray, tan, and mauve, while even in the cloths and mohairs checks and stripes are more in vogue than the plain effects.

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN. "I'd clare, I'd know w'at to make of ma wife. She'll ruin me a spendin' all de money there is," declared Jim, when his old employer inquired for Mrs. Jim.

"She do seem reckless about money," continued Jim, with a sober face. "Always askin' me for a dollar, or fifty cents, wantin' monee all de time, like I could pick it up in de streets."

"Well, well, that is hard," replied his questioner; "but what does she do with so much money?" "I dunno. I ain't ever give her any yet."

HIS NATURAL PLACE. "I wonder," exclaimed the worthy woman witness, "that the lawyer on the other side can lie easy in his bed?"

"He can, probably," replied her husband, "but he prefers to do it in court."

The professor had been quizzing his psychology class, and was disappointed with the result. "Gentlemen," said he, "it has been said that fish is good as brain food. If that is true, I advise some of the men in this class to try a whale."

The silkworm is liable to over 100 diseases.

Fashion Hints.

FADS AND FANCIES.

Stripes will have an autumn vogue. High collars are featured in new capes. Rich embroideries figure in hat trimming.

Black is more in evidence than for years. Fox will be one of the leaders among furs. Wings and quills are prominent in millinery.

Some of the new coats are widely double breasted. For dressy skirts black voile retains its popularity. Even lingerie has caught the directoire enthusiasm.

Skirts are draped after the fashion of Greek tunics. Navy blue is the most popular color in walking suits. For the coiffure Roman braids are still much in favor.

Colors for street and dinner dresses are nearly all dark. Passementeries are more prominent than in twenty years. The separate coats are to again figure largely for fall wear.

It is a Parisian dictum that the petticoat must be glove fitting. Buttons are used more lavishly than ever before upon the autumn models.

Short coats, long coats, and Norfolk jackets may now all be had in leather. Black crepe de chine is an ideal fabric for costumes that seek the draped effects.

New silk raincoats are mostly in brown and gray. Ribbons in satin and velvet apparently will have a great vogue in winter millinery.

Many of the silk and satin hats are blocked, the material being stuck on like paper on the wall. Feather toques with muffs and stoles to match will be worn with smart tweed or cream serge costumes.

Many bodices of luxurious gowns are in tulle and net effects, touched with gold lace and passementerie. Every high class fur muff or scarf displays head, tail and claws of the animal that furnished the pelt.

Ribbon filets with two large pearl hairpins to hold the ends are among the newest bandeau effects. Cedar red or cedar brown will be a popular color for fall hats, and the copper tones likewise retain their favor.

Soft, clinging, lustrous satins are great favorites of the hour. Undoubtedly it is to be a satin season. Soft satin is the favorite fabric of the season, closely followed by cashmere and crepe de chine effects and by broadcloth.

In spite of the rage for big hats, there are still many small ones. These are generally draped three-corner or oval turbans.

The straight front panel has reappeared in the newest of the plaid tweed suits. It is about four inches wide, and the sides are slightly lapped over it.

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