

but cure it." Our good old mothers, who relied upon herb tea instead of "potecary medicine," gathered their herbs while in blossom and cured them in the shade. This is the philosophy of making good hay. Cut in the blossom and cure in the shade. The sugar of the plant when it is bloom is in the stalk, ready to form the seeds. If the the plant is cut earlier, the sugar is not there; if later, the sugar has become converted to woody matter. Hay should be well wilted in the sun, but cured in the cock. Better to be a little too green than too dry. If, on putting it into the barn, there is danger of "heating in the mow," put on some salt. Cattle will like it none the less. Heat, light and dry winds, will soon take the starch and sugar, which constitute the goodness of hay, out of it; and the addition of showers render it almost worthless. Grass cured with the least exposure to the drying winds and searching sunshine, is more nutritious than if longer exposed, however good the weather may be. If over cured, it contains more woody fibre and less nutritive matter. The true art of hay-making, then, consists in cutting the grass when the sugar and starch are most fully developed, and before they are converted into seed and woody fibre; and curing it to the point when it will answer to put it into the barn without heating, and no more. The whole science of hay-making consists in three things: First cut the grass when in blossom; second, dry it not too much; third, let it go through a sweating process before it goes into the barn. On these three things depends the quality of hay. Hay should be grass preserved. The nearer to the fresh, tender, succulent grass you get it, the better. Could we have grass growing in Winter, how much better than hay. Well, hay is an attempt to do this as near as we can. We dry apples and berries so that we may have them in Winter. But we can't have them absolutely fresh, so with grass; we preserve it, and hay is the result. Grass, when in blossom, has its full growth, excepting the seed. It is yet tender in a measure, and it has one advantage which no other stage of the grass possesses—it develops its sugar then. Especially is this the case with clover, whose head, when in blossom, is a globe of sweetness. — *Valley Farmer*.

FARM GLEANINGS.

There is a loss of one-fourth in stacking hay. No good grass farm has small barns.

A California paper says many farmers in that vicinity cut off the top of young wheat, with mowing machines, to prevent too rank growth of straw.

Soil under barns or stables that have been standing any length of time is usually very rich in nitre, and is especially valuable in the compost heap or as a top dressing.

In addition to the decrease in the acreage in hops in Winconsin, the hop lice have made their appearance in great numbers, so that the prospect is that there will be no large crop.

In holding produce for higher prices the loss on shrinkage is usually greatly under estimated. Potatoes, for instance, will often shrink one-fifth during a winter in the cellar.

One swallow does not make a summer, and the result of a single experiment should not be taken as a rule. Writers for Agricultural papers, and farmers generally, have much need to remember this.

At a late meeting of the Farmer's Club at Bowling Green, Ky., a stalk of orchard grass more than five feet long was shown. It was thought this grass was rapidly growing in favor as it becomes better known.

An English farmer chose his seed wheat with such care, and cultivated it with such skill, that his heads increased in length from four to eight inches; the berries from 45 to 125 in a head, and the number of stalks from a seed from 10 to 32.

The *Country Gentleman* says it has not yet met the farmer who could make enough manure to obviate the necessity of using clover as a fertilizer. It thinks manure spread on clover seed in the Fall is the best preparation of ground for corn the following Spring.

A correspondent of the *Germantown Telegraph* says that he knows a first-class farmer who cultivated his fence corners, or rather land which the plow would not reach along the fences, in grass and found that the product met all the expenses, and his fields suffered very little from weeds.

It was recently stated in a discussion by the Waltham, Mass., Agricultural Club, that a farmer in Holliston had raised cabbages on the same land for fifteen successive years, and always successively. He manured his land with common salt, and watered his plants with lime-water.

The *Detroit Post* reports a case where a consent of hops were received by a house in Detroit on which \$600 was advanced. An offer of 4 cents a pound was made, but the owner wanted 50 cents, and continued to keep the price above the market until the hops became worthless and were given away for manure.

A writer in the *Rural Messenger* says as good a crop of corn as ever he saw was saved by the persistent use of the hoe between showers, in season as wet as this has been. All the boys that could be hired in the neighbourhood were employed in hoeing the corn and keeping the hills clear of weeds. The neighbors who let the corn alone until their ground got dry, had scarcely any corn.

The *Farmer's Home Journal*, in speaking of the waste in harvesting grain, suggests that farmers try a simple experiment to ascertain how much this waste is. Select a fair average part of the field after the grain is shocked; measure a spot 21 feet square, which is nearly exact one-hundredth part of an acre, and pick up all the heads on the spot, shell these out, weigh the grain, multiply the weight in pounds by 100, divide by 60 and the result will be the number of bushels per acre.