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## RURAL NOTES.

A good dose of potash over the ground and a wash of the tree each spring with lye, a New Jersey peach-grower says, will both prevent and cure the yellows.

It is proposed to introduce the culture of flax into Southern Australia. It is thought that the seed and lint can be exported cheaper than any of the crops generally raised.

STRAWBERRIES should be well mulched in the spring, this being essential to the gathering of a clean crop of berries. The mulch also protects the plants against the effects of drought.

SCIONS for grafting should be cut before the buds swell, and kept in a cool, damp place until used. Grafting work may be carried on from the time when the buds are bursting to the end of May.

WHEN our farmers can be convinced that they may increase the present average yield 100 per cent. by a small increased outlay there will be greater effort made to accomplish that end.—*Rural Home.*

MR. PETER HENDERSON is quoted as saying that the future garden seed of this country will be produced in California. The business there is already important; 20,000 pounds of lettuce seed was shipped East last season and 80,000 of onion.

FOR condensing milk use a boiler having a water jacket, like a glue kettle, or one vessel inside another with water between them to keep the milk from scorching. Condense to the consistency of syrup, sweeten with sugar, and pack in sealed glass jars.

PORTABLE pens for pigs, partially roofed in to afford shade during the hot hours, are very useful on the farm. They may be moved every day or two; if this be done the pigs will be given fresh earth and grass continually, and the ground will be richly and evenly manured.

AN Iowa correspondent of the *Germantown Telegraph* makes his granary distasteful to rats by daubing all the angles on the outside of the building with hot pine tar for the width of three or four inches, and also any seam or crack where a rat or mouse can stand or gnaw.

A PENNSYLVANIA girl thinks the advertisements of agricultural societies are the best commentaries on the management of their fairs. "Look at the premiums," she says: "For the fastest trotting horse, \$50; for the next fastest, \$25; for the best

team of work horses, \$5; for the best loaf of bread, 50 cents."

THE *Germantown Telegraph* says: "Our judgment and practice have always been to treat the soil in which the trees, fruit and ornamental, grow, as far as can be done, the same as soil that is cultivated for vegetables or general farm crops, and we have always been satisfied with the result."

ROSES, fuschias and many other flowering plants will sustain unhurt for a short time a temperature of 120 degrees. If infested with insects, a good and safe remedy is to dip the plants in water of say 120 degrees temperature. Ferns, petunias, begonias and many other plants of soft texture will endure 140 degrees.

EARLY chicks well fed and cared for are generally the finest and best. They have, too, the greatest vitality, and are useful for breeding purposes the next year. A good supply of animal and vegetable food, with fresh air and a scant ration of corn, will promote a healthy growth. Corn produces an excess of animal heat.

BLACK POLAND fowls have solid merits, but they are subject to cold and roup. In warm, genial situations, on well-drained ground, and with shelter to which they can resort during rains, the Polands will do well and repay their owners with an abundant supply of eggs. Their flesh is good for the table, they are prolific layers and never want to sit.

BARE spots in lawns are generally caused by standing water, for which draining is the best remedy. It may also be necessary to level up the soil, in which case the work should be done in early spring and the new ground seeded. Three or four hundred pounds of superphosphate of lime to the acre, if the soil is poor, will make a great change.

Don't read books and papers which suggest thoughts you would not utter. They stain the soul, they burn the heart. Can you thrust your hand into soot and bring it out white and clean? Can you singe your clothes and not have the smell of fire on your garments? Beware of books which are suggestive of evil, though they may be clothed in purple and gold of fine language.

THE blinder was a stupid invention. It makes the life of a horse miserable, and only cultivates the evil which it is intended to cure. A rational mode of treatment is worth more than all the blinders in the world. What would the servant man think of it were he sent to the field every morning with his eyes walled in so that he could see nothing but the work straight ahead of him? He would make a row over it certainly.

"ANYTHING will do for sheep, such as barren hillsides, rocky, worthless wastes, or among the scrubs," is the advice once given by an enthusiast on sheep breeding. The farmer who adheres to such a system thinks "there is no money in sheep." We admit that sheep will consume much that would otherwise be lost without their aid, for they are industrious foragers, and not very particular in taste, but for all that they must be carefully provided for in every respect if the best results are desired.

THE Hessian fly did a good deal of injury to the wheat crop of Illinois last fall. A recent report estimates its extent at 25 per cent. of the crop. Favourable reports come from Missouri and Kansas, and unfavourable ones from Indiana and Michigan. In the last named State the wheat fields were covered for several weeks with a thick coating of ice—the result of February's thaw and the severe cold spell that succeeded it. The condition of the crop in Ontario will be watched with interest.

MR. A. R. WHENNEY, says the *Farm Journal*, sets the walnut trees in rows a rod apart each way. Among these he plants soft maples in rows four feet apart each way. The maples are set in the spring at one year old, 2,720 plants per acre. These can be bought very cheap, or be grown from seed. The walnuts can be grown from seed or be bought cheap of any nurserymen. The maples grow rapidly, shade the walnuts, inducing an erect growth without branching. The ground is cultivated until the maples are cleared off, which is done after the walnuts are well established with straight trunks, when the ground is seeded to green grass, and becomes a pasture field. Such plantation will grow into value rapidly, especially as the price of walnut timber annually advances.

It is a tradition among farmers, remarks a correspondent of the *N. Y. Tribune*, that plaster is better when freshly-ground. It may be a mistake, but my supply is always obtained in winter. The only disadvantage is, it is apt to get a little lumpy, but the lumps are easily crushed. By waiting until needed, work on the farm has to be stopped, which is often inconvenient, and on this account the plaster is not obtained. Its use is, in my judgment, so important in putting in seeds that I prefer to get it ahead of time, so as to make sure of having it. The grain is wetted with barnyard juice, and as much plaster mixed with it as will stick to it, and it is sowed in this form with decided advantage. On fields seeded with grass, plaster is sown broadcast to stimulate the growth of the young plants after the seed comes up. Plaster is cheap, and will always pay when applied in this manner.