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Colonial Farmer.

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Correspondence.

For the Colonial Farmer.

RURAL TOPICS.

SETTING TREES.

The art of making fruit and other trees grow and thrive, lies in a few brief rules, as follows:

1. Dig them up with great care, retaining a large proportion of their roots; and any roots mangled, to be cut off at the mangled ends smoothly with a sharp knife.

2. To be kept in the shade, if set out the same day they are dug up. If not set the same day, dig a trench in your garden deep enough to receive the roots, pack in the trees side by side as closely as possible, with the tops touching the ground, then cover the roots a foot deep with soil, treading and packing it around the roots; and if the trees are to remain a few days, it would be well to cover their tops with any coarse litter to shade them from the sun.

3. When set, trim the trees according to the extent or quantity of roots they have, by shortening in the branches, and by removing a superfluous branch here and there. From one-third to one-half of the top of a tree, when re set, should always be shortened in.

4. Dig holes of ample size, so that all the roots will be in their natural, horizontal position; and place the surface soil by itself, to be first used around the roots, and the subsoil on top. Pack the earth firmly among the roots, and before the holes are entirely filled up, turn a half a pail of water into each, and wait a few hours to finish filling them.

5. No manure should be put among the roots; but it may be placed over them, near the surface of the ground. A mulch of barnyard litter around the trunks of the trees is very good to ward off the effects of a drouth.

MANURING GRASS LANDS.

The spring of the year seems to be the best time to manure grass land. At this season rains are frequent, and the grass grows rapidly, and soon shades it, which saves its ammonia, to a great degree, from passing off into the atmosphere. Some farmers apply manure soon after mowing their grass; but if a drouth occur at this time, three-fourths of the value of it is lost in evaporation It is somewhat less risky to apply manure to grass lands in the fall; but is it not reasonable, and plainly evident, that the spring is a much better time? So think the best farmers of the United States. Manure for grass lands should be fine, and well rotted. If composted a season with an equal quantity of muck, or of any good soil, and shoveled over once or twice during the summer, it would be in the best possible condition to be spread evenly over the roots of the grass; and a few good rains would dissolve it, and carry its virtues where they are needed.

A GOOD STAND OF GRASS.

To secure a good stand of grass, it can be done by sowing more seed than usual, and quite early in the spring—and alone—no oat crop to half smother it. If you sow timothy and clover, let the timothy be two parts, and the clover one part—from a half a bushel to three pecks of seed to the acre. A correspondent who has tried this method of sending to grass says: "If the land is good and put in good order, and the seed sown early and covered lightly, there can hardly be a failure. I do not remember a single one. Sometimes the grain will be very heavy, and if oats are sown thick, mischief will result. But this must be avoided; we must not subject our seeding to the smothering effects of heavy crops of grain. It is sure to be hurtful, if not fatal. There is less danger from exposure without the grain; only let the soil (the top-soil at least) be good; and the seed be put out early, so as to insure a start. The ground, after this, will soon be shaded and occupied if sufficient seed is sown. And the young seeding will stand the heat as well as the young grain, being by itself thick and close, and better calculated for protection."

GARDEN STRAWBERRIES.

Remove the winter protection as soon as the weather will admit; and if the soil is not rich, some fertilizer should be applied early. Any well-rotted manure will do to apply, by forking it in lightly, without disturbing the roots of the plants. Ashes, superphosphate, bone flour, guano, and hen dung are good fertilizers. Two years is the usual time that strawberries are allowed to bear, when a new bed should be made. Set the plants in May, and you will get a full crop next season, but if deferred till July, August, or late, the crop next year will be of little value. Plants should consits of last year's runners. If set in a bed, let them be from 15 to 18 inches apart, and by fall it will be covered with plants, then to be thinned out to stand eight or ten inches apart. If you desire to grow strawberries in rows, with a walk between each row, make the rows two and a half feet apart, and set the plants about 15 inches apart in the rows. The most notable strawberries that were exhibited at the Centennial in Philadelphia as regards size and beauty, were the Great American, Glossy, Cone, Gypsey Queen, Monarch of the West and Col. Cheney. The first three of these were quite new, produced from seed in New Jersey, and of uncommonly fine appearance. Of course it remains to be seen whether they will maintain such size and beauty when grown elsewhere.

"IMPERIAL EGG-FOOD."

Two years ago "Imperial Egg Food" was first offered to the public, and considerable being sold, a dozen other parties have gone into the same business, professing that it will greatly increase the number of eggs laid, keep the fowls healthy; and in some cases, it is claimed that it will cure all the diseases to which fowls are subject! My advice is, don't buy it. Does it look reasonable to suppose, that these quack hen feeders have discovered anything that you or I cannot obtain in our own village or town? This "egg food" contains red pepper, and a few other stimulants, as allspice, ginger, &c. But the pepper is all the stimulant in it of any value. So, all you have to do is, to go to the store and buy a pound of cayenne pepper, and mix it sparingly with the cooked or uncooked meal that you feed to your fowls. In the winter season, a hot feed of cooked meal once a day, with pepper in it, and the same cold in summer, with grain at other feedings, is all the "imperial egg food" that any one needs. The name "imperial" shows that the stuff was got up to humbug verdant fowl keepers.

HOW TO FEED CHICKENS.

We frequently see articles in the papers on feeding chickens, as if their existence depended on a formula of delicacies, when quite young, as long as a French bill of fare. Chickens require no food the first day that they are hatched. For the first two or three days they may be fed on a boiled egg, mixed with soaked crusts of bread; but after, that time they may be fed on Indian meal, till old enough to eat cracked corn, wheat screenings, barley or buckwheat. It is doubtful whether they require anything except corn meal at first, as I have tried both ways, and could never see any difference in the result; but a little better food for a couple of days will do the chicks no harm.

COAL ASHES.

The only fertility contained in coal ashes, is what comes from the wood used in kindling the fire, which amounts to next to nothing when fires are kept burning for months. But if well sifted they are a benefit to stiff soils when plowed in. An excellent walk may be made with one part of clayey soil, and two parts of sifted coal ashes. The clayey earth to be taken from under the top soil, and where there is no fertility. Pulverize it quite fine, then mix it thoroughly with the ashes, then apply it to your walks, six inches thick, rake off smoothly, then give the walk a good wetting from a water-pot, and when dry enough run a hand-roller over it. The clayey soil causes the walk to be compact and hard. Coal screenings from the coal yards are also very good. I use one part of soil, one do, of coal ashes, and one do, of screenings; but where good gravel is abundant don't use anything else for walks.

CORN FODDER.

A writer on growing corn to be fed green says: "One dairy farmer who had 100 dairy cows said that he wanted his corn grown so as to produce the greatest quantity of ears possible for the purpose of feeding his cows, and to increase their daily flow of milk; and from numerous letters received from farmers in different sections of the country the past fall, there is no doubt that very many farmers will make the experiment the coming season with sweet corn, growing it in such a manner as to produce ears as well as fodder, all to be used in the feeding of farm stock the coming summer and fall, and from such experiments much knowledge may be gained." The large, free-growing varieties of sweet corn are best for this purpose.

PLANTING CORN IN DRILLS

Some farmers drill in their corn (I do not refer to fodder corn), making the rows four feet apart, and on hoeing it the stalks are left about eight inches apart. This way will give more corn to the acre than if planted in hills; but it is attended with more labor in cultivating it. For the benefit of those who desire to try this way of planting corn I submit the following; "In fitting a wheat drill for planting corn take off all the grain tubes but those to be used, and close the slides of the grain box and fertilizer, except those wanted to run. In going to the field, let the corn run on the road for a few rods, and if the drill does not plant right, fix it before entering the lot. To put the seed in the ground the right depth, fasten weights on the grain tubes, if needed. Take a little pains and make the first row straight, and all the others can be easily made so. By using a drill with a fertilizing attachment on it, planting the corn and putting on superphosphate of lime (on ground that may need it) are all done in a short time."

DISEASED PEACH TREES.

The following is said to be a sure remedy for the yellows in peach trees: "One part of saltpetre to two of salt, placed close to the body of a tree before a rain. It seems not only to destroy any fungoid growth of vermin which may be infesting the roots, but to act as an excellent fertilizer."

Miscellaneous.

Breed For a Purpose.

If there is any one admonition more pertinent to farmers and horsemen than all others, and that needs to be repeated over and over again, it is, *Breed for a purpose.* To do this requires a certain amount of intelligence and thought, that, we are sorry to say, many farmers do not exercise on this question. In hundreds of instances, we have known men of excellent judgment in most matters, and general intelligence on public affairs, act in the most foolish manner in selecting individuals from which to increase and improve their horse-stock. Some are led away by one idea, and some by another, but the great majority have no idea about it. They simply want to raise a colt; and the horse that is most convenient, and at the lowest price, is the one they select. In order that we may get this question more effectively before the minds of our readers, we will be somewhat specific, in pointing out some of the more common and notorious errors and mistakes into which so many are apt to fall.

First.—The most common, and, at the same time, the most hopeless mistake is where a man doesn't know what he wants. In the abstract, he will say he wants a good horse, and one that will bring him a good price, if he should wish to sell him. He hopes that the colt may be remarkably fast, or remarkably handsome, or possess some other good quality, in such a remarkable degree as to distinguish him above his fellows, but he fails to consider and adapt the means to the end. Indeed, he has no end in view, except that he hopes to get some ideal horse.

Second.—A considerable portion of that class that we may designate as "the average farmer," is very liable to be carried away with a name; they have heard so much about the Thoroughbred horse, that they suppose he is the sum of all excellence, and they cannot be mistaken in breeding to him. We know of no word in all the horse literature extant that has been the vehicle of so much downright lying, as this word "thoroughbred." Various gentlemen, learned in theology, law, etc., have undertaken to enlighten the world about horses, and one calls the Morgan a Thoroughbred, and another calls Dexter a Thoroughbred; and with such ignorance among teachers, what are we to expect from those who make no pretensions to profound knowledge on this subject? The Thoroughbred horse is a particular family or breed of horses; and when we use the word intelligently, we use it to describe that breed, just as we would describe a breed, as the Percheron horse, the Clydesdale horse, etc. The trouble is, the masses of the people, as well as the preachers and lawyers, have got it into their heads that "thoroughbred" means something superior to everything else of its kind. There never was a greater mistake in the world. Some of the best horses that the judgment and skill of man have produced, were thoroughbred, and some of the most miserably worthless were just as fully entitled to the name for they were just as strictly "thoroughbred" as the best. The Thoroughbred horse, if he has size, substance, quality, and form, and is free from hereditary unsoundness, and is possessed of the mental traits that you want, is a capital horse to breed to, for general purposes; but find the horse, as well as the pedigree, before you run after him.

Third.—In some instances there is a purpose, but it is utterly incongruous with any of the principles of good practical sense. A man has a small, active, and perhaps well-bred mare, and his purpose is to produce a foal with her qualities, but of increased size. He looks about, and finds a Percheron, and his owner assures him that half the fastest trotters in the country are the direct descendants of this breed, and proves it from a book. The colt comes, and grows up. At one point he follows his sire, and at another his dam; at one point he is big, and at another he is little—neither one thing nor the other, and good for nothing—is fitted for no purpose for which the parents were respectively adapted. The mare, in this case, should have been bred to a horse of her own type, but of larger size, and possessing the qualities that the owner wanted in the produce. All extreme crosses fail to produce satisfactory results; and the more violent the cross, the more uncertainty there is in approximating what will be the character of the offspring. With a mare of ten hundred pounds, and a horse of the same general type, weighing twelve hundred, we can approximate the size and character of the progeny, with reasonable certainty; but when you take a smooth-built, clean-limbed mare, of this size, and breed her to a ton weight of fat and muscle, resting upon four great, round, hairy mill-posts, what are you to expect?

Fourth.—A very common error, amongst those who have any well-defined purpose, is to breed for speed, without regard to the means to secure it. The most common form in which we see this error exemplified is in breeders putting mares, without trotting action or trotting inheritance, to trotting stallions, and then spending money on the foal, to develop its speed, when it has none. There are certainly instances of success on record from this kind of breeding, but the chances of failure are so great, that a wise man will think twice before he will try it.

While we thus urge the importance of breeding to a purpose, we must, at the same time, urge the importance of wisely adapting the means to the end sought. If you have a running mare, and want to breed a race-horse, take her to the best of her kind, and be sure that he was himself a winner, and came from a winning family. If you have a fast trotting mare, and want to breed a fast trotter, don't stop half way, but go to the best trotting-horse, and from the best family of trotters. If you have a mare of good size, and elegant form and style, don't hesitate at the expense and trouble to find a horse that will be an improvement on these qualities. Above all, never attempt to contradict the laws of nature, by violent and unnatural crosses.—*Wallace's Monthly.*

Boys, Don't Leave Home.

Boys, do you remember the story in the Bible about a young man who went to his father and said, "I want my share of the property now; I am tired of waiting for the time to come when it will be mine; give it to me and I am off?" The father divided the farm, the boy took his portion and "went into a far country." His money did not last long; he could find no work; he got hungry and returned home.

Its a short story, but the history of a whole life. He left a home "where there was bread and to spare," and went to the city. You get tired of the plow or the harvest field, and see beautiful visions of life in the large towns; your are never told of the dark hours and days that will come when your stomach gnaws and becomes so empty that the few clothes you have left fit you to much, You would give your last shirt for a good meal, and pants for a place to sleep; and as you pass the homes of luxury and plenty you would barter the heart of "the girl you left behind" for a chance at their table of fat things. Want, dire, dreadful want, takes you in hand that mocks your craving for bread, saying; how grand to live in the city! Time hangs on your hands; and from sheer want of occupation you leave the fibre of your nether vesture on the barrel and boxes of the house of sin until your movements are characterized by a flag of truce, or from lack of shift you flaunt the black flag; the soil of sin gathers on your character, while the grime of the earth clings to your person; the looking out of your knees, implicating ferquency at devotion, is only another evidence of your folly in coming to the city.

Don't leave home because you are tired of it and long for a change; for while we admire pluck, we can only denounce it as a cowardly act to defy fate.

One of the constituents of rain water, as influencing the growth of plants, is instructively illustrated in a paper by Prof. Church. The quantity of common salt in rain water collected in the gauges at Cirencester College has been systematically measured for a long time past, and the result is an estimate that the average rainfall there insures a supply to the soil in the year of no less than thirty pounds of salt per acre. Cirencester is about 35 miles from the Bristol Channel.

Farmers' Convention at Presque Isle.

On Wednesday, March 21st, the farmers of the vicinity gathered at Presque Isle for a two days' discussion and interchange of views on such topics only as would engage their attention as farmers. The time of year and the weather were auspicious, Wednesday forenoon for the opening session, which was given to the discussion of the subject of raising or not raising weeds; the sum of which deliberations was, to use the plow, harrow and cultivator as often as possible and manage to have garden seeds up as soon as possible.

To get at weeds early for this purpose I soak carrot seeds three days, then sow on land freshly cultivated so as to hoe and weed in ten days; and in this way I raised last year, eighty bushels with two and one half days' work, including sowing by hand and all weeding. I did this in a trial case at Portage Lake for J. Hayward. The weediest garden that anybody has got, if rich, I will take for a similar experiment if the weeds are not grass or thistles. Thick and pig-weed and such they may sow on to their liking.

A farmer in Burlington once gave me such a piece and laughed at my raising weeds for his hogs, but he had to go to his own cornfield after them, and I got twenty bushels of carrots for each day's work.

In the afternoon, by request, I read a paper on fruit culture, which was followed by an animated discussion; Mr. Filley, of Castle Hill, and Ambrose, of Sherman, being present with their large experience in the matter. The sum of all being, in substance, that we have fair prospects of good varieties, even for Boston market. Thousands on thousands of bushels of strawberries, raspberries and blueberries are now going to waste, and there is abundant proof that apples, plums and pears make us equal to Massachusetts in what we may do with suitable attention to it.

Mr. Hayford opened the meeting Wednesday evening with the leading items of the dairy enterprise. On the kinds of dairy stock for cows difference of opinion prevailed. Short Horns were reported of the largest record in weight of milk, but largest weight of butter went to the Jerseys. Mine was 402 pounds of butter, besides raising calf, the family's year's use of milk and cream and fifty pounds loss for want of suitable creamery and twenty-five more for lack of best milk food. But without guessing, what might have been $100 clear net income over all outlay for food and work. With the outside market that some have, thirty-five cents per pound would have been $140 after paying equitably for feed and feeding and all work on the product. This was my farming which I was willing to compare with Beecher's crop of dried apples that didn't come up very well."

On the subject of warm stables I agree, provided more ventilation and breathing room would make them less like the Irishman's skunk, "so swate that no mortal man can smell it," because milk is sometimes too rich for weak stomachs.

Thursday forenoon the same contest for breeds were continued; and here we surrender to every man his preference. If John Morrisom, of Corinth, had been there with his Hereford oxen, he would have told us to hitch on to the hind end of his drag and see which team would have to go backwards.—M. R. Keep, *in Dirigo Journal.*

Pro and Con of Clipping Horses.

Much may be said on both sides of the question as to the advisability of clipping horses in Winter. Its advantages may be shortly stated in the diminished liability to prospiration, the rapid drying after a sweat, the better tone thus given to the muscular system, the power of more continuous exertion without exhaustion, the improvement of digestion and assimilation, so that the horse can be kept on less, and, not the least important in the eyes of many, the facility with which he may be cleaned off after work. The disadvantages are mainly these: The rougher appearance of the coat and the absence of that sleekness and beauty that belongs to the natural covering, the lateness of shedding the Winter coat, which will cling to the skin for a month after it otherwise would have been dropped, and the danger of chill if the animal is left exposed to a cold blast after sweating, or if he is kept in a cold open stable. Clipping becomes a necessary evil, to save, from a worse, the horse that grows such a long and thick Winter coat, that he sweats on the slightest exertion, and when failing to dry when returned to the stable remains drenched with prespiration day and night. Such a horse is not only repulsive to handle and use, but his whole system gets relaxed, his muscles becomes soft, flabby, and incapable of endurance, his spirits sink, the constant drain upon his system makes him difficult to keep in flesh, and he becomes much more liable to chronic affections of the air passages with persistent cough, to rheumatism, and to various other affections. To clip such a beast is at once merciful and profitable.

Next comes a whole class of animals from which severe and continuous exertion is demanded but supplied with warm, comfortable stables, and a sufficiently careful attention and abundant clothing. These can, as a rule, be kept more cheaply, in better condition, and do better work, if relieved of a moderate Winter coat, which, if left, would cause free prespiration whenever they are subject to their exacting labors. The same lightness of coat can often be attained with a far more beautiful, glossy surface, by habitually blanketing warmly in Autumn and early Winter, at the time the hair naturally grows. But, However the condition is brought about, a certain amount of care is wanted, such as constant blanketing, when stopped out of doors, the same when the beast returns warm, and even when standing in the stable, and above all, the avoidance of open stable traversed by currants of cold air. Lastly for animals with naturally short coats, for such as sweat with difficulty, and for those that are rarely or ever subjected to severe exertion and prespiration, the coat had best be left in its natural condition, as a kindly provision of nature against the rigor of the climate, and admirably adapted to protection and comfort. In this view of the subject, clipping is to be avoided unless demanded by the artificial conditions to which the animal is to be kept, and especially by the excessive labor demanded of him. When resorted to it must never be forgotten that it entails new dangers from exposure, against which we must carefully provide if we would secure its benefits without its disadvantages.—[Prof, Jas. Law, Cornell University.]—*New York Tribune.*

Study of Natural History.

The following are the views of that profound and dtstinguished scientist, Prof. Huxley:—

"There is yet another way in which natural history may, I am convinced, take a profound hold upon practical life,—and that is, by its influence over our finer feelings, as the greatest of all sources of that pleasure which is derivable from beauty. I do not pretend that natural history knowledge, as such, can increase our sense of the beautiiul in natural objects. But I advocate natural history knowledge from this point of view, because it would lead us to seek the beauties of natural objects, instead of trusting to chance to force them on our attention. To a person uninstructed in natural history, his country stroll is a walk through a gallery filled with wonderful works of art, nine-tenths of which have their faces turned to the wall. Teach him something of natural history, and you place in his hands a catalogne of those which are worth turning round. Surely, our innocent pleasures are not so abundant in this life, that we can afford to despise this or any other source of them. We should fear being banished for our neglect to that limbo, where the great Florentine tell us are those who, during this life, "wept when they might be joyful."

Water Cress Culture.

Wherever there is spring water running in open ditches or small brooks, water cress may be grown The most favorable conditions for its growth, says the Toronto *Globe*, are a gently flowing stream of water from three to six inches deep, with a gravelly bottom, underlaid with loam, and fed by springs of uniform temperature. On a neighboring farm rises a strong spring, on which, some four or five years ago, water cress seed was sown. Now there is a complete mat of plants, not near the spring only, but all along the stream for a mile or more, pieces of branches and roots having occasionally been torn off and carried down by the current to some quiet places where they took root. In the sheltered bays and nooks of this brook, where alternate layers of muck and gravel were washed on, the plants seem to luxuriate the most.

Where similar conditions exist naturally but little labor is necessary to establish a water cress bed sufficient for home use, but when more extensive plantations, otherwise then along the margin of a brook, are to be made, considerable labor may be required. If the land to be devoted to this culture does not contain enough gravel or coarse sand, this element must be supplied before planting; a covering of from three to four inches will be sufficient. Where the land is entirely and constantly overflowed all that is necessary is to cut off rooted branches of old plants and set them out in places where the water is about six inches deep, and to place a stone on each root to prevent it from being washed away. A small stream running thorough marshy ground, however, offers the best opportunity for a large plantation.

In this case ditches three to four feet wide, and as many feet apart, should be dug rectangularly from the water cress as far as the water will folow. The depth of the ditches must be arranged according to the medium level of the stream, in such a manner that the water in them stands at no season lower than three inches, nor any long time more than six inches. By means of a dam with sluiceway the water can readily be kept at uniform level. At the bottom of each ditch the cuttings are placed about two foot apart each way, or closer if enough roots can be had. Where old plants are not attainable seed may be sown in the shallowest parts of the ditches, and the plants grown therefrom used for propagation, but of course a year more time will be required to establish a plantation from seed than from cuttings. The month of September is the best time for sowing the seed as well as for planting.

Tin Lamp Shades.

As we have been tried and annoyed for a long time beyond endurance with paper shades for kerosene lamps and with porcelain shades, which are but little more satisfactory than paper, we ordered a shade made of tin, in form like the conical paper shades. A paper shade has always cost from twenty-five to thirty cents. A tin shade as large as a paper shade costs twenty-five cents. But we soon learned that the inner side of the tin shade required a coat of white paint, as the reflection of the bright tin gave an unsatisfactory light. As the light fell on the printed page when one was reading, the surface would be so clouded in places and so bright in other spots, that it was extremely difficult to read. But a coat of white paint proved to be a desired remedy for the difficulty. The outside of the shade was covered with shellac varnish. The shade of a lamp should be entirely opaque. Porcelain shades and paper are more or less translucent, as they will allow the light to pass througl. them to one's eyes. The eyes should be kept from the direct rays of the light as far as may be practicable. The light ought to shade only on the object to be seen, and not on that object and in the eyes also. If the lamp can be entirely surrounded by an opaque shade, except a small opening through which the light can shine on the printed page, the eyes would be required to make far less effort to see, than if the shade were translucent. Let it be borne in mind that the eyes will see better if no light is allowed to shine in them or in the face.—*N. Y. Times.*

The most real and marvellous discovery which has been made about bees since the days of Huber is the fact, which has been proved to demonstration over and over again, that queen bees do not remain barren even if they fail to mate altogether. To Von Siebold, a German naturalist, we are indebted for this surprising discovery, and to Mr. Woodbury for drawing attention to it in England. It is some years since the matter was discussed in the pages of this journal, and I believe every person disposed at first to doubt its truth ended by a full assent. The fact is that unfecundated queen bees have the inherent power of producing drone bees, but not (in any case known) those of workers. This has been called *parthenogenisis.*—*London Cottage Gardener.*

Roots for Horses.—Refuse potatoes which in many Scotch countries and in Yorkshire are freely given to horses, both raw and cooked, occasion much gastric derangement and even death, unless at first used sparingly. Exactly the same caution is necessary in the use of mangold. It is full of moisture, contains upwards of 90 percent. of water, more saline matter than many other articles of food, whilst it rapidly undedgoes fermentation, and thus is liable to impair the digestion of horses unused to it. But when accustomed to the mangold it answers very well; on some farms six or eight pounds are given to every horse; but from its washy and saline character it is not so well adapted for hardworking horses as either swedes or carrots. Where roots are scarce and horses are living on dry food they ought to have twice a week a liberal allowence of bran. Ewes with young lambs readily eat mangold, and do tolerably well on them if they are besides receiving full supplies of nutritive dry food. Given to suckling ewes on grass it is, however, very liable, from its watery and saline nature, to purge the lambs. Under these circumstances—namely, whilst on the pasture—lambs thrive much better whilst their dams are receiving swedes. —*North British Agriculturist.*

Indian Tanned Skins.—The skin is stretched either on the ground or on poles, and all fat or flesh removed. When well dried it is washed in soap and water to cleanse the fur; the brains of an animal are then taken and mashed into a paste with hot water, and this paste is thoroughly rubbed into the flesh side, and the skin hung out to dry. When dry it is scraped, and exposed to the dew for one night, and next morning rubbed and pulled until soft. Buckskins are made by rubbing off the hair with a horse-rib, while the skin is fresh, or, after soaking in a weak lye; then dressing with brains, and staining a reddish colour in a decoction of Wasatchie bark. Alum and salt are very good, but alum is rather scarce in the chapparal, and also are doors and boards. Care should be taken, by the way, not to use too much salt, as it causes the skin afterwards to absorb moisture too readily. Smoking a skin is done by first dressing with brains, sewing it up into a funnel-shape, and suspending over a slow fire of buffalo chips, or dry prickly pear, built in a hole in the ground. The tips of the funel being pinned down close around the hole; a clear, calm day is selected, and the smoking requires about two hours. It gives a velvet-like finish, and the skin never shrinks or gets stiff from wetting but washes like cloth—*Forest and Stream.*

It is generally conceded that wheat and rye are benefitted by harrowing in the spring. The ground should be comparatively dry, and the harrow a light one, and if the teeth slant back all the better. Fertilizers can be applied to advantage before harrowing, and if clover is to be sowed, let it be done on the freshly scarified earth. Pastures and meadow lands are benefitted by harrowing also, using a heavy harrow. Apply top-dressing of ashes, barnyard manure, bone dust, or whatever you have, before harrowing, and sow thin and bare places just after harrowing. The yield of grass lands could be doubled in many cases by adopting the proper course now.—*Practical Farmer.*

Buy young trees. The average American is always in a hurry, and while the oldest trees in a nursery are the highest priced, they do not come into bearing any sooner than good trees that are a year or two younger. Then, too, the young trees grow better and more vigorous, and make better and healthier trees. Experienced orchardists plant young trees. Don't select too many varieties; for profit, the fewer the better. Half a dozen standard varieties pay best, but for home use a wider latitude is desirable, but even then select carefully and judiciously. Look in your own neighborhood as to the merits of the different varieties; their success or failure is not the same in different localities —*Western Agriculturist.*

Planting trees of an early age is productive of early and prolonged fruitfulness. We often see fine specimens of fruit growing on trees yet in the nursery row. Peach trees older then one year are worthless. Young trees in the hands of a skilful grower can be made to assume almost any shape, which cannot be said of those of an advanced age. Young trees can be made to branch so low that neither grass nor weeds will grow under them on account of the shade, and I am not sure but this would be a good method with some species. The prolific peach trees in Daniel E. Rogers' orchards rest their branches on the ground when loaded with fruit, yet his might have been trained much lower. However, for general culture a medium height is most desirable.—*Rural Home.*

We go over our beets, parsnips, peas, beans, etc., with a twelve or fourteen-toothed steel rake as soon as they show signs of coming above ground. We use the same, only a smaller breadth of implement, among our flower beds, and by so doing always keep the ground loose and clean. For potatoes, corn, etc., in the garden, and for working among raspberries and other small fruits, and for stirring the surface earth around dwarf pears and recently-planted trees, we use a four-pronged hook or hoe, with which a man will perform nearly or quite one-sixth more work in a day, destroy the weeds, and leave the ground always light, loose and even.—*Prairie Farmer.*

Blue Glass.—Gen. Pleasonton's blue glass theory is assailed by the *Scientific American.* His idea that electricity is generated by the passage of light through the glass is declared to be absurd. Nor have colored rays any beneficial effect on life, the reverse rather being the truth, as a pure, whith light is best. The only good that can come of blue glass is in its use as a shade for decreasing the intensity of solar light.