

The Farm.

August Floriculture.

This is the month for the planting of bulbs for the next spring's blossoming and for transplanting peonies.

Our method is to remove all the earth from the beds the depth of the spade, beginning a little distance from the edge, that bulbs and roots may not be injured, for they have a way of throwing up leaves and flower stalks which does not always indicate their exact location.

The beds are then filled with rich garden soil, as undecomposed manure in contact with bulbs destroy them.

Each variety should be by itself, if blossoms for cutting are desired.

For several years a large bed of sweet scented double red tulips near the border of the lawn has been perfect in its season, but this spring soon after the bulbs formed the leaves died, until nearly all the plants were destroyed: digging down to ascertain the cause, we found many tunnels and no bulbs; some animal had eaten them.

In making new beds this month for bulbs we shall make the underground edge rodent proof by means of stones, bricks or boards; then place the bulbs from four to six inches below the surface, then the thoroughly pulverized soil shall be filled in; the top should be slightly rounded, so that water may not stand on the beds, for the action of frost seems to cause the turf to rise or the earth to sink and if level at the time of starting a sink holding water will certainly result.

By properly arranging the beds artistic results may be obtained. The different shadings of hyacinths—the blues, the reds, and the white—a circular bed of tulips arranged from the deep maroon through the reds to white; the yellows and white, or the white alone, may contrast with a nearby bed of scillas, or bell hyacinths.

We grow narcissus and love them for their long continued bloom; the lily of the valley attracts cut worms, but we have abundance of bloom since we learned that boards set lengthwise under the ground to define the edges of the bed was a sure protection.

Vines are grown to perfection in a rocky covering top and sides, and grows better each year if undisturbed.

Lilium auratum, album, precox rosacea and many other varieties give better satisfaction if transplanted this month.

Crocuses are best set in turf; make holes with a spud in the lawn, put a crocus in each hole, and next spring you will be delighted with the purple and gold effects in a deep green.

In removing peonies take care not to break the roots; one gardener says that if a plant is cut around with a spade a week before removal "little knobs" will be formed and will be a means of producing new roots.

In all cases an old top growth must be removed and the peony set deeper, in order that the crown may be entirely covered.

August setting insures certain "rooting" before the ground freezes, and August blossoms the next blossoming season.—(A. S. Parker.

The Loss of the Bee's Sting.

That a bee dies soon after losing its sting has been very confidently and repeatedly asserted. In fact, it has been considered by many a "settled fact" and so has been reiterated without question. Up to within the last ten or fifteen years nearly all believed that a bee that had stung any one must surely die, for in leaving the sting as the honey bee nearly always does in stinging an animal, a part of the intestines was supposed to be left with the sting, poison sac, etc., from which it was argued that the bee could not live. This seemed so reasonable that I formerly believed the idea which prevailed was true until one day after a bee had stung me, leaving its sting, it came to attack me again and again with all the fury and vengeance possible for a bee to work itself up to, getting in my hair and singing away as only an angry bee can sing, which will make the cold chills run up and down the back of the most hardened bee-keeper. As the bee apparently had no thought of dying, it was caught and caged with two or three others, and kept a week or so to see what would become of the matter. At the end of the week it was apparently just as lively and healthy as any of the rest, when all the bees were set at liberty.

Nature understands her work much better than we do, and it now appears to me that it was so ordained that the sting, poison sac and contents might be torn away from the bee and yet it remain as perfect in every other way, save the defending of its home, as it ever was. If such was the case we can readily appreciate the carelessness manifested in rushing to an attack upon slight provocation, rather than ascribing so much to the patriotism of "home protection" resulting in "the death of hundreds and thousands" of their numbers, which has been the idea of the past. Whether bees having lost their sting gather honey or not, or whether they are allowed to live in the hive without their weapon of defence, is something which would be next to if not quite impossible to tell, for in this case we have no means of keeping track of an individual bee.

I have often seen bees which have either stung me or into my clothing so as to lose their stings alight back on their combs without any molestation by the other bees, save some little irritation from the perfume of poison in the air, having watched such for several minutes. If they did not then try to evict them from the hive, when would it be done?—(Cleanings and Bee Culture.

Thinning Tomatoes Increases Size.

Twenty-five tomato plants at the Arkansas Experiment station were grown in well cultivated soil which had been fertilized three years ago for vegetables of various kinds. Before the crop of tomatoes was planted it was given a free application of commercial fertilizer. The lateral branches below the first cluster were pruned off with a sharp knife. The plants were tied to stakes and sprayed occasionally with Bordeaux mixture. With another lot, the treatment was the same except that not more than two or three fruits were allowed to grow on one cluster. Thinning was done when the tomatoes were one-half and three quarter inches in diameter. The deficient rainfalls and high temperatures in July affected the thinned plants less than those not thinned. The results of the tests were greatly in favor of thinning the fruit, so far as single specimens were concerned. The average weight of a single tomato on a thinned plant was about fifteen and three-fourths ounces; while on the plant not thinned the average weight was six and three-fourths ounces. Taking the total amount of fruit produced per vine, it was shown that when the fruit was not thinned each vine produced ten and one-half pounds while where the fruit was thinned each vine produced only nine and one-half pounds. The better appearance of the thinned fruit and the smaller amount of waste make it advisable to thin according to C. L. Newman in Bulletin No. 56—American Agriculturist.

Pear and Apple Blight.

The very nature of the disease renders the treatment very difficult. The germs are so small that they may be carried by insects, by wind, and very easily by contact from the diseased trees to the growing tips and blossoms of others in the same orchard. It should be stated here that the germ usually finds tree entrance through the growing tips and blossoms. Occasionally one will see a patch of dead bark surrounding a little tuft of leaves on the main branches or stem of the apple tree. It was through these leaves, probably by means of a drop of water, that the bacterium was able to affect an entrance into the circulation of the tree. The disease manifests itself in various ways, and this latter form is sometimes called "body blight." It is a rather more severe type than that which affects the twigs and young branches.

In considering remedies the first thing is to prevent its spread by lessening the amount of germ producing affected branches, and twigs as soon as discovered should be cut out and destroyed by burning. It is necessary in order to eradicate the disease entirely to cut twelve or fifteen inches below the point at which the bark shows discoloration. Care should be taken in making this cutting that the germs from the diseased portion are not carried down by the knife and transplanted into the healthy wood below. Another general practice which may have an important bearing upon the presence or absence of pear blight is the character of the cultivation given the orchard.

If the trees are growing very vigorously and are much affected by blight, it may be wise to seed down the orchard with clover and timothy in order to check the superabundant growth and encourage the ripening of the wood. Briefly, then, all affected branches should be cut and burned. In the autumn it is wise to get over the trees and cut out the stubs or branches which show that the bark has been injured more or less by the blight. The cut sur-

face should be covered with some mineral paint. Spraying with fungicides is impracticable, because it is impossible to kill the rapidly developing foliage constantly covered.—(John Craig in Wallace's Farmer.

Since the outbreak of the plague at Oporto, Portugal, there have been twenty-six cases and eleven deaths from the disease.

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HAVE YOU WEAK LUNGS?

Every Sufferer From Lung Weakness, Consumption, Bronchitis, and Throat and Lung Troubles Can be Cured.

Nearly everybody you meet will regard it as a kind of an insult to be asked if they have weak lungs. All seem to have a full faith in the soundness of their own breathing machine. In cases of trouble they will admit there is a "heavy cold," a "touch of bronchitis," or even a "spell of asthma," but as to weak or unsound lungs—never—never. Even the poor consumptive, whose cheeks are wasted, hollow, and bear the hectic flush of doom, will assure you with glistening eyes that his cold is on the mend, and he will be all right when the weather changes.

Never was there a cure for lung troubles equal to the newly-discovered Dr. Slocum treatment. This forms a system of three remedies that are used simultaneously and supplement each other's curative actions. It cures weak lungs, bronchitis, coughs, consumption, and every other ailment of the pulmonary region. It destroys every germ that can effect the respiratory system, and even in advanced stages of lung trouble positively arrests the tubercular growth, while it also builds up the patient so that his system is enabled to throw off all other wasting diseases.

Thousands of cured cases already prove these claims. Thousands of grateful people bless their discovery.

If the reader is a consumptive or has lung or throat trouble, general debility or wasting away, do not despair, but send your name, post-office, and nearest express office address to T. A. Slocum Chemical Company, Limited, 179 King street west, Toronto, when three large sample bottles (the Slocum Cure) will be sent you free. Don't delay until it is too late, but send at once for these free samples, and be convinced of the efficacy of this great remedy.

Persons in Canada seeing Slocum's free offer in American and English papers will please send to Toronto for free samples. Mention the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

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Parkdale, Ont.

Permanent Cure of Cancer.



Some twelve years ago Mrs. Elizabeth Gilhula, wife of the postmaster of Buxton, Ont., was taken ill with an obscure stomach trouble which her physicians pronounced cancer of the stomach and informed her that her lease of life would be short.

On the advice of friends she commenced taking Burdock Blood Bitters. The results that followed were little short of marvellous. Her strength and vigor returned and in a short time she was completely cured. Mrs. Gilhula is to-day in the full enjoyment of good health, and in all these years there has not been the slightest return of the trouble.

Here is the letter Mrs. Gilhula wrote at the time of her cure:

"About four years ago I was taken sick with stomach trouble and consulted several of the leading physicians here, all of whom pronounced the disease to be cancer of the stomach of an incurable nature, and told me that it was hardly to be expected that I could live long. Afterward the two doctors who were attending me gave me up to die.

"By the advice of some of my friends, who knew of the virtues of Burdock Blood Bitters, I was induced to try it, and I am now happy to say that after using part of the first bottle I felt so much better I was able to get up. I am thankful to state that I am completely cured of the disease by the use of B. B. B., although it had baffled the doctors for a long time. I am firmly convinced that Burdock Blood Bitters saved my life.

Here is the letter received from her a short time ago:

"I am still in good health. I thank Burdock Blood Bitters for saving my life twelve years ago, and highly recommend it to other sufferers from stomach troubles of any kind." ELIZABETH GILHULA.

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