

HOW TO DESTROY BURDOCKS.

Docks are most numerous in the rich grounds adjacent to the house and barn, and in the fence corners. As each one, when permitted to go to seed, produces about 10,000 seeds, they are bound to spread and occupy all the ground. The burdock is annoying and disagreeable, owing to the fact that the burs adhere to everything they come in contact with. The colts get their manes and tails filled with them, they cling to the faces and tails of the calves and cows, and the dog is tormented by their adhering to his soft hair. In fact, they are a perfect nuisance.

The best way to get rid of the docks is to spade them out, and lay the root up to dry. If that is considered too laborious a job, take a sharp hoe and cut them off just below the surface of the ground, and in a few weeks go over them again, cutting all off that have sent out new leaves. Going over them a few times in this way will finish them all.

In half a day's time a man with a sharp hoe will generally cut all such weeds that are growing on an ordinary farm, and it is culpable negligence if they are not destroyed. I find no difficulty in keeping the weeds cut and all the odd chores about the buildings done in parts of rainy days, when there is not time after the rain is over to go into the fields before dinner or supper.

The same treatment may be applied to wild carrots and wild parsnips, for as far as my observation extends they only become noxious weeds when they are permitted to ripen their seeds in fence corners, and the vicinity of the garden or farm buildings.

When weeds and berries are allowed to fill up the fence corners and thrive along the roadside, the farm presents a very unthrifty and unsightly appearance. A few of the half days that are spent at the village tavern, grocery or store, talking politics, if not in some worse way, will eradicate them all, thus adding much to the convenience and looks as well as to the value of the premises.—*Examiner*.

GETTING IN DEBT.

While there is some very good advice given to farmers on the subject of debt, there is a great amount of impracticable platitudes and sentimental twaddle furnished by hobbyists whose advice followed closely would be about as dangerous as the practices they would guard us against.

Credit, like fire, is a good servant, but a bad master. Because a large conflagration breaks out occasionally, destroying millions of dollars worth of property, people don't shriek from the house-tops, "don't, don't use fire! It is dangerous in every way."

Credit is one of the corner-stones of business, and the commerce of the nation is in a healthy and prosperous condition in the proportion that the credit of the people is sound and well established.

Credit may be and is often abused, but so is every good thing. If a farmer is offered an improved farm implement on time, which will increase the production of his fields fifty or a hundred per cent., he is unwise to refuse the credit that is offered him. Of course it is not the correct policy to get in debt for any-

thing when you have the cash to pay for it, but if you haven't that desirable commodity, the next best thing is your credit, which should be protected and guarded as sacredly as your honour.

We would advise every young man to get in debt just as soon as possible for a home of his own. Then let him get the help of a good wife, one who is easily broken in to work double, and what an incentive and spur that debt will be!

We agree with those extremists who oppose debt in any form, that no person should get in debt for luxuries. We simply urge that credit should, and can be, used with discretion and "good horse sense," and that the farmer is just as capable of advantageously using credit in this way as any other class of people.—*Western Ploughman*.

TO VENNOR.

Vennor, you miserable old frawd!
A settin' down an' writin' lies,
An' makin' out as how
That you'r a proffet!
You awt to be ashamed!
A purty proffet you air—
A makin' 'onest farmers think,
In Minnesoty, that they
Could raise green peas an' cabbig
In Janivary, an' ood feest
On cowcumbers an' lettis,
An' sich like gardin' sass,
An' plow, an' hawl manner,
An', in their shurt-sleeves,
Set around on fences,
A whitlin' an' a-tawkin' pollytix
Awl winter. An' here the merkery
Has got 'way down so low
It's froze, an' busted
My forty-cent thermometer!
You miserable, contemptible,
Old frawd; you'd better quit
A makin' almanax an' go,
An' hire out to a seekahun boss
To shovel snow!
You ask "of you're to blame
Bekaws it's ben so cold?"
Of course you air!
The wether-clurk wuz mad,
Bekaws of your a-tryin'
To run the thing;
An' fur the last six weeks
He's ben o' turnin' of the crank,
An' sendin' down
These Manitoby waves,
An' awl the time he's ben a-laffin,
An' a-pokin' fun at you;
Whilo you, you miserable old frawd,
Hey ben a posin'
As a wether proffet,
An' a-makin' of yourself
Rediclus.
You tho't as how you'd git
Your name in histry,
Alongside of Elishy's, ez a proffet;
But it'll be remembered,
Along with your mild winter.
An' broken, busted, old thermometers,
An' frosted heels, an' chilblains,
An' handid down,
To fewcher generations,
Jest as a frawd!
Bekaws, that's what you are!

—H. Leslie.

THE farmer, says *Farm and Home*, who went carefully through his fields last year, and selected the choicest ears from the corn crop, and carefully cured them for seed, may expect a good crop this year if the seed is carefully planted, tilled and haryested. But there must be care through it all. A slovenly farmer is as much out of place as a slovenly housekeeper. It is as true in agriculture as anywhere else that "there is no excellence without labour." There are, now-a-days, many labour-saving machines for the use of farmers which may tend to make them a little indolent. But just so soon as a man becomes absolutely lazy, just so soon he has outlived his usefulness on the farm. A lazy or careless man has no business to live anywhere—certainly not on a farm.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

If you put soda in the water with which you are to wash windows, you will find that finger marks, putty stains, etc., will be much more easily removed than if clear water alone is used.

STALE bread may be utilized in making a good breakfast dish. Cut it in thin slices and, when toasted uniformly brown, spread it with butter, and heap on each slice some ham, minced and mixed with eggs, and fried nicely. Serve very hot.

A FOLDED newspaper, or part of a newspaper folded, is good for a holder and saves burning the fingers, spoiling the temper, or soiling a dish towel when in haste to remove a boiling pot, open an oven door or take up a hot poker or pan.

FARMERS' PUDDING: One-half pint of molasses, half a pint of water, two teaspoonfuls of saleratus, one teacupful of any kind of berries, rolled and thickened with flour, and steam three hours. Raisins are nice to use in place of berries.—*N. Y. Times*.

As an inducement to the greater utilization of buttermilk in bread making, it is stated that it contains four to five per cent. of milk sugar and a-half per cent. of mineral salts, and that after settling for cheese-making it also contains one per cent. of nitrogenous matter and nearly as much of butter fat.

To freshen lawn or sateen dresses that will not wash, sprinkle them with cold starch, i.e., clear starch, made thin with cold water, and not boiled. Let them lie an hour or two, and iron. If there are any especially soiled places they may be washed out in the cold starch without fear of making the colours run.

ONE of our valued contributors, Mrs. Annie L. Jack, sends the following to the *Rural New Yorker*: The best yeast is made as follows: Boil a handful of hops in two quarts of water ten minutes: strain, and add to the liquor one cup of sugar, six grated potatoes, and a tablespoonful of salt. Let it simmer half an hour, add a cupful of good yeast when lukewarm, and let it rise without being in any way chilled.

NEW way of serving oatmeal.—Take a dessertspoonful of oatmeal; place it, in the morning, in a tumbler, and fill up with new milk. Let it stand all day, and take it for supper or for a nightcap. The grains will have been softened by their long soaking in the milk, and in can be eaten with a spoon. This is said by its advocates to be a specific against neuralgia, and is also soundly recommended for sedentary folks.—*Farm and Household*.

PIRON describes, in the *Moniteur Industrielle*, a new process for rendering paper or cloth water-proof, and at the same time protecting it from change. He employs an alcoholic solution of the agreeable oil used to perfume Russia leather, and which is obtained by distilling white birch bark. The oil dissolves readily in alcohol, but is no longer soluble after it has once dried and become oxidized to a resin. The thin film of resin formed by impregnating the fabric, does not detract from its pliability in the least, and its aromatic odour protects it from insects. It protects, quite well, from sea water, acids, and moderate changes of temperature.