

FARM AND GARDEN

THE GRASSES.

The Best Time to Sow—Two Widely Distributed and Valuable Pasture Grasses. Timothy, red top, orchard grass, June grass and indeed most other of the grasses throw their seed in the fall, and if the grass is allowed to stand it will sow its seeds in July and August, and the seed will come up that fall and renew the grass in many cases by its self seeding. If we ought to sow at the same time that nature sows, it would therefore appear that fall is the season. But fall is not always the best time, everything considered, for each individual farmer. It may be that we have no land ready at that time. It may be the best way for us to sow the ground after other crops have been taken off, and we must adapt ourselves to such circumstances as best we can. The objection to sowing in the spring is that there is a strong growth of the annual weeds which come up at the same time as the grass. Pigweed, wormwood, redroot and many others are great deal stronger as annuals than the grass seed which has been sown. The grass holds back, and it is tender at first. Another objection to sowing grass in the spring is that August or fall is the natural time for grass to start. It makes a growth in the fall that is slightly woody, which makes the grass better able to stand the winter. If the seed is sown in the spring, there is no tendency to produce that woody growth, but the tendency is to run up and head out.



JUNE OR BLUE GRASS.

One of the most widely distributed and valuable of all our pasture grasses is that known as June or blue grass in the east and blue grass in the west and south (Poa pratensis), Fig. 1. This native American grass is the base of all our old seed meadows and pastures, as well as of the velvet turf of our lawns and parks. It propagates itself everywhere, driving out the coarser kinds sown for hay and increasing from the roots as well as from the seed. So hardy is it that it appears to grow underneath the snow, through which its purple green, spearlike blades may be seen peering erect and vigorous, even in midwinter. Its dense sod, while affording the best of pasture and hay, is, as every farmer knows, the surest of fertilizers when turned under and planted to Indian corn. The blades of this grass are long, sharply keeled, of a full green color and very abundant. Its stalks vary in height from 1 to 3 feet, and its open, spreading heads flower, in New York and New England, from the 1st to the 15th of June; in the west and south from two to four weeks earlier. At the same time that June grass blossoms come orchard grass (Dactylis glomerata), Fig. 2, a fine, rapid growing species, the only one of its genus, and so unlike anything else belonging to the order that no one can mistake it. This grass was introduced from England, where it is often called "cock's foot grass," from the shape of its flower head. The blades are of a dull, bluish green color, very long, open and abundant, and for rapidity of growth equalled by none other. The stalks vary in height from 2 to 4 feet, and the flower head consists of from six to eight large, alternating clusters of spikelets, the lower one of which projects some distance beyond the others. The color of the flower varies from lilac to a straw tint. This grass, from its rapid growth, on fertile soils easily affords two crops of hay. It has been a favorite in the west rather than in the east, where, however, it has of late years become common. A. W. Cheever, authority in the east, says that about two bushels of orchard grass and one bushel of June grass are



ORCHARD GRASS.

sufficient per acre. He is also credited with saying: "I know of no grasses greater in value for the second crop than orchard grass and June grass, and a really strong point in favor of these two grasses is their value as a second crop. I have got three crops a year from these two grasses, and the third crop was larger than my neighbors could show from ordinary grass for their second crop. Of course the land was well manured."

A man's wife should always be the same especially to her husband. But if she is weak and nervous, and uses Carter's Iron Pills, she cannot be, for they will make her feel like a different person. It won't so they all say, and click heads any so too.

BASIC SLAG.

Compared With Other Sources of Phosphoric Acid. It may be well to explain once more what basic slag is, since considerable is being said about it. Basic slag, otherwise known as "odorless phosphate," "iron phosphate," etc., is a product of steelmaking. All iron ores contain more or less phosphorus. It tends to make iron or steel brittle and is therefore objectionable, and one great problem of the iron maker is to remove it. The bessemer process of steelmaking is used chiefly on ores low in phosphorus, but about 15 years ago a new process was invented that upset all former methods. A quantity of lime is dropped into the molten iron. This instantly unites with the phosphorus and is held in the form of phosphate of lime while the liquid iron runs off. The lime and phosphorus, with the sand and other impurities in the ore, form the basic slag. It cools in the form of huge clumps, and must be ground to a fine powder before it is used as a fertilizer.

In this country opinions vary as to the real value of basic slag. Some insist that it is inferior to finely ground South Carolina rock, while others consider it but little inferior to a reverted phosphate. It has not yet come into a very extended use in America. The price is high as compared with other sources of phosphoric acid, and our expert stations have not given it the careful tests that it deserves, says The Rural New Yorker, from the columns of which the following is gleaned: In France basic slag is valued as a cheap source of phosphoric acid, the good grades averaging 16 to 18 per cent of it. It is especially valuable for meadows established in low, damp lands, owing to the 80 or 40 per cent of lime contained in it. Finely ground, it is scattered over the meadows before winter at the rate of 600 pounds per acre, with an addition of 200 pounds of kainit, or, preferably, 100 pounds of muriate of potash. In case of deficiency of nitrogen in the soil 200 pounds of nitrate of soda or of sulphate of ammonia should be added in the spring. Basic slag is principally used on meadows. However, some farmers employ it on grain crops such as wheat, barley, etc., and it is almost always used in combination with potash.

Basic slag is highly regarded by German farmers. The consumption today is about 300,000 tons a year in Germany, and the price on an average \$10 per ton, analyzing 15 per cent of phosphoric acid, which means that two pounds of phosphoric acid in the slag can be bought for the price of one pound in superphosphates. German farmers value slag out of the low price at which it furnishes phosphoric acid, on account of its faculty not to be consumed too rapidly, not to be washed beyond the reach of the roots in one season, but, on the contrary, to yield a most perceptible source of plant food for two and three years running, which makes its application invaluable in seeding down meadows, permanent pastures, clover and lucern, and for enriching the subsoil in the planting of orchards.

A Bag Holder. This bag holder was invented by a Vermont farmer, and Rural New Yorker originally illustrated it.



A HANDY CONTRIVANCE. No description is needed, as any farmer can see from the picture how it is made and used. It is very handy and can be folded up and put away when not in use.

The Hen In Perfect Health. A red comb and an active, restless disposition indicate a fowl that is in perfect health and that will give a good account of itself. The slow, fat, sleepy looking hens if not in poor health are at least not in good condition. A hen that lays a large number of eggs cannot afford to be sleepy or droopy. Nature prompts her to seek for a variety of food. Her needs are urgent, and she has no time to loaf away sitting on the roost or lazily lounging in a corner. The activity not only promotes her health, but keeps her in possession of a good appetite. She works off the surplus fat and converts the nitrogen and phosphorus into eggs, where she stores up all the elements necessary to bring forth chicks, says Southern Cultivator.

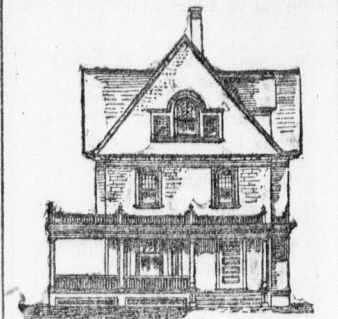
Observations on Tile Drainage. H. C. Marsh, Indiana, describes experiments in tile drainage made under the auspices of the farmers' institute of Muncie. Three tile drains were laid about 40 inches deep and at distances of 150 and 200 feet apart, on an area containing yellow clay, black soil and hardpan. The height of the ground water was observed in wells sunk in different parts of the drained area. The results are of interest as showing a wide difference in the effectiveness of the drains on different soils and under different conditions and indicate that the distance and depth of tile drains must be determined by observations on the soils in each case.

Carter's Little Liver Pills must not be confused with common Cathartic or Purgative Pills as they are extremely unlike them in every respect. One trial will prove their superiority.

A PHYSICIAN'S RESIDENCE.

It Costs \$4,500 to Erect This Beautiful and Comfortable Home.

(Copyright, 1903, by American Press Association.) This house was designed for a physician who resides in the suburbs of a large city, and it has some excellent features which will be appreciated by any one in comfortable circumstances who is about to erect a house for himself. People cannot afford to try experiments in building on account of the cost; hence it becomes necessary to de-



FRONT ELEVATION.

cide upon the actual dimensions of the rooms, height of stories, etc., as well as the location before building operations are commenced. Few people desire to copy outright the house plan of another, but much benefit can be derived from studying a number of plans, in each of which one rarely fails to find some idea of value.

A physician's residence should be in some convenient location, easy of access, and if possible in a central part of the town. The house in question is situated on a corner lot at the intersection of two principal thoroughfares. It has a frontage of 60 feet on the main avenue and a depth of 100 feet. The building is placed at a distance of 30 feet back from the curb line on the avenue and 15 feet from the curb on the side street, thus affording an opportunity for a neat lawn and landscape flower beds in front. As usual, there is a cellar under the building of good depth, with concrete floor. The foundation walls are of stone to the top of the ground and of hard brick from thence. The chimneys are of hard brick to the roof and are topped out in buff brick, all laid in cement mortar.

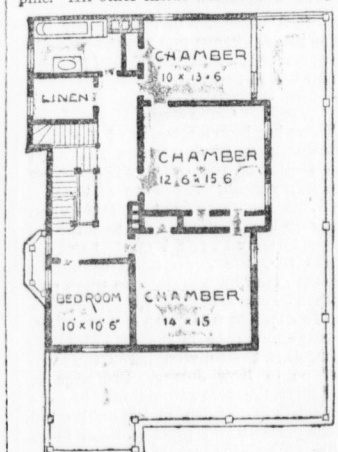
The exterior of the building is simple in design, but effective in appearance, of wood above the foundations, sheathed and clapboarded in the first story, with shingled side walls, gables and roofs. A wide veranda extends across the front and one side and affords shelter to the front entrance.



FIRST STORY. and side windows of the principal rooms in the first story. The main lines of the roof are pretty broken by gables and dormer windows.

In the first story is a vestibule, a large hall with an open fireplace on one side and a pretty octagon bay window on the other, with an upholstered seat beneath the stained glass window. The hall is further ornamented by a handsome staircase. At the left of the hall is the parlor, which has a corner fireplace and a large bay window in front. It is separated from the hall and dining room by sliding doors. Back of the parlor is the dining room, which directly communicates with the main hall and study and to the kitchen through the pantry. Out from the dining room is a small study which may be used as the doctor's office. Through the pantry you may reach a good sized and fully equipped kitchen with its accessories.

In the second story are two large chambers, two bedrooms, a bathroom, linen closet and wardrobe closets. In the attic are two bedrooms for servants and a large storeroom. The walls and ceilings inside are plastered three coats in the usual way. The inside woodwork of the attic is of white pine, painted two coats; the hall is finished in oak, floors throughout of yellow pine. All other inside woodwork is of cypress.



SECOND STORY. press, filled and varnished and rubbed smooth. The house is fitted up and furnished with suitable hardware—electric bells, speaking tubes, venetian blinds, plumbing fixtures, hot air furnace, etc., complete. This building can be erected for \$4,500. In some localities it would exceed this amount. D. W. KING.

Recent Architectural Styles. At present brownstone fronts, with towers and varied forms of bay windows, are the chief features of outside ornamentation, especially in small houses, while cabinet mantels, tiling and some electrical arrangements for the interior are agencies of style that are essential to the popularity of residences in cities. But the latest houses have improvements that are more than fads to recommend them to the seeker of a home.

The Rivals.—The blonde—wonder if I shall ever live to be 100? The brunette—Not if you remain 22 much longer.

Chicago in Camera

CHICAGO, Aug. 22.

I have visited the Board of Trade on several occasions and witnessed some pretty exciting scenes. Farmers do the work necessary to produce grain and are paid such meagre prices as these Board of Trade hewers are good enough to allow them, and then the bedlamites fight for the plunder. The stakes are high and the gains and losses are heavy. Men sell their souls for preferment, and it is little wonder that one poor fellow a few days ago ended the race by blowing out his brains. He had entered the contest with what most farmers would regard as a snug fortune, and his last penny had been spent. A few days ago a dealer named Cuddey was the reputed owner of millions; now he is bankrupt. He tried to beat others, but in the game he was beaten himself in the Board of Trade. Another big failure is that of Merchant Mitchell, also a reputed millionaire. Everything is jostle, and the strong men trample over the weaker ones. My brother-in-law, with whom I am staying, is a salesman for a firm of New York engine makers, and a few weeks ago a sale was made to a firm that failed last week. "Can you collect the \$2,000 balance due on the engine?" I asked him, and he replied, "Oh, yes; it is only a case of a strong partner freeing out a weaker one." So was the world. Men in business try to cut each other's throats, and manufacturers and bankers get up little corners and trusts with a view to choke the workers in fields and factories just enough to make it uncomfortable to breathe and live.

I spent about three hours one afternoon in the board room of the women directors of the fair. It was curious day with them. Mrs. Potter Palmer was in the chair, an ancient ruler she makes. She is very pretty and a pleasing speaker. Her position was a most trying one while I was present, for unfortunately a serious disagreement had taken place between the chairman and secretary of the committee on awards, two prominent ladies having a very strong following in the board of about 100 members. The ladies had been at cross purposes for months on the committee and had at last brought their grievances before the board. Bitter words were spoken on both sides and feeling ran high. A dozen ladies had the floor at one time and desired to speak, but Mrs. Palmer evolved order out of chaos and each lady was given an uninterrupted hearing. It was a scene very long to be remembered, when at last concessions were made by the contending parties and objectionable expressions were withdrawn. Every member was on her feet applauding the women who uttered conciliatory words and made it possible to have harmony once more restored. There were noble women who held the floor on that memorable occasion and out of chaos and every lady was given an uninterrupted hearing. It was a scene very long to be remembered, when at last concessions were made by the contending parties and objectionable expressions were withdrawn. Every member was on her feet applauding the women who uttered conciliatory words and made it possible to have harmony once more restored.

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One of Chicago's streets is 27 miles long. Some Toronto people will to-day regard this as a reason why street cars should run on Sunday. But it does not necessarily follow that cars are a necessity to carry the people to parks, for handsome and commodious resorts are provided in every part of the city and are easily approached from every direction. Moreover it is true that not more than one in every twenty visit the parks on Sunday for rest or to breathe the pure air, but to have a congenial time with friends drinking, boasting and engaging in a thousand and one more objectionable practices.

Here are some facts that will astonish some readers in Canada. The inspection of lodging houses made by Italians is now in progress. Inspector O'Connell, at No. 339 Canal street, found fifteen beds in a cellar, walls unplastered, floor rotten and unsafe, and reeking with filth. Bernard Rosa, saloon-keeper up stairs, a proprietor of a lodging-house at No. 1631 State street, had 60 cots in a cellar 6 feet 6 inches high, with no ventilation and defective plumbing. A cellar at No. 71 Ewing street was found filled with beds. Walls and ceilings are covered with filth. The same conditions were found at No. 15 Ewing street. At No. 525 State street 31 bunks were found in one cellar in rooms 4 feet by 7. The floor is wet and rotten. At No. 615 "double deckers" in a low car were found. Chief Tenement Inspector Young found a club of 40 Italian laborers in a cellar, which they rent for \$9 a month. One of the number is chosen cook, and they live for 6 cents a day each. Among the higher class lodging houses the one kept at No. 178 Madison street was discovered to have 60 rooms on second floor, a hall 2 feet 6 inches in width, and a stairway only a little over 4 feet wide. The Argyle House, No. 174 Madison street, has 355 rooms, with one stairway 4 feet 2 inches wide, and wood partitions 7 feet high. The hotel at No. 193 Madison street has exits from rooms 2 feet 6 inches in width with a stairway 3 feet 6 inches wide. The Chicago European Hotel, No. 100 Clark street, has 100 dark rooms with no windows except from those on fifth floor in front and rear. Commissioner Tolson

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says he will enforce the State law requiring every habitable room to have a window. The seventh biennial report of the Illinois bureau of labor statistics has been published. It is a voluminous document, and is divided into three parts, one of which is devoted to showing the condition of working women of Chicago, another to the coal mining industry of the State. The first part, relating to Chicago working women, presents a table showing that out of 4,626 women, employed in 41 industries, 21 were working for less than \$2 per week and 17 were receiving \$20 or more per week.

Between the extremes the greater numbers are massed in the three classes earning from \$4 to \$7 per week, as follows: Six hundred and seventy-five received from \$4 to \$5, 882 from \$5 to \$6, 860 from \$6 to \$7. Below this central group are found 680 who earn less than \$4 per week, and above it are found 1,429 who earn from \$7 to \$25 per week. This, then, is the general statement concerning 4,626 women and girls employed in 41 establishments, in 41 industries, the same being all the employees of every grade in each establishment: That 15.2 per cent of the whole number earn less than \$4 per week; 34.1 from \$4 to \$7, and 50.6 per cent from \$7 upward. The average earnings of the whole number, both office force and operatives were \$6.22 a week. Those who earn more than this average were 42.30 per cent of the whole and they received an average of \$8.18 a week. Those who earn less than the average were 57.70 per cent of the whole and they received an average of \$4.91 a week.

Part 2 of the report is devoted to the sweating system in Chicago. A canvass made by the bureau disclosed 666 sweat shops and 10,933 persons connected with them, working either in the shops or at home. The inquiry was not made, however, in the busiest season and the judgment of the agents is that there were probably 800 such shops in the city and 13,000 people deriving work and wages from them. Many shops are located in basements and many are in alleys, and the direct result of the occupation of the sweaters is to impair the health of many of them. It is stated that during the busy season exceptionally strong and skillful pieceworkers can, by working long hours, earn as much as \$18 a week. Less skilled and less vigorous pieceworkers earn ordinarily from \$4 to \$10 per week during the busy season. In the best shops the ordinary hours of labor are ten each day. In the worst sixteen hours are frequently exacted.

In that part of the report devoted to the coal production of the State it is shown that during the year ended July 1, 1902, 17,802,375 tons were taken from 539 mines and openings of all kinds in 55 counties. The aggregate home value of the product was \$16,243,045. The number of employees of all kinds was 33,632 and the miners numbered 25,421. The average price paid for hand mining was 71.88 cents per ton. In taking out the coal 299,467 tons of powder were used and 57 persons were killed by accidents. Sixty-one new mines, principally of the better class, were opened during the year, and the estimated area worked out was 2,966 acres.

The vastness of Chicago may be well understood when it is stated that its post-office is the largest in the world, with a population of \$3,500,000. The cost of the postal service of the United States is \$5,600,000 in excess of the postal revenue, so that three-fifths of the deficit is paid by this city alone, and it is expected that an appropriation will soon be secured for the erection of a new postoffice building at a cost of \$4,000,000. That the 2-cent letter rate largely stimulates business is everywhere conceded, and no one expects that the postage should be restricted by a return to the old 3-cent rate.

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