

to do the most good. If the spreading of the manure is delayed till spring, the land, if not ploughed in the fall, should be ploughed before manuring, and then lightly ploughed or well harrowed in according to the quality of the manure or the nature of the crops. The only growing crop that can be properly surface manured is a meadow. Winter wheat should never be manured over the growing crop; leaving the manure on the surface draws the roots up to it, and being near the surface they are burnt up in great droughts. It is therefore better that it should be deep enough to protect the roots from the great heat of summer. Ashes or other artificial manures can be spread on the surface advantageously.

CROTCHERY TREES.—In the training of young trees all crotches should be avoided. If the tree, as it comes from the nursery, has a fork, one branch should be removed, and the other tied up perpendicularly. If bad crotches should occur in trees six years old or upwards, they should be braced. This bracing is done by twisting together two twigs, one from the inside of each branch of the crotch. The twigs may be twisted about each other loosely, the ends being allowed to project freely beyond the opposite branches of the crotch. If securely kept in place, these twigs will soon begin to adhere along their whole length, and after three or four years the free ends may be cut off. In a few years they will be united into a perfectly solid bar across the crotch of the tree. Twigs from the size of a lead pencil to the size of one's finger unite most readily. All the larger branches of an apple tree may be braced together in this manner, and the injury from splitting will be mostly avoided. When a large branch shows signs of splitting, one cannot wait for the growing together of small limbs. In such cases iron bolts must be used. Much damage to fine trees can be averted if bolts are used as soon as a weakness is discovered. Half-inch rods of considerable length may be run through the branches at some distance above their junction.

MINORCAS.—The Black and White Minorcas are new and valuable additions to the many varieties of poultry we already have in this country. Mr. Stephen Bealer, one of the best known and ablest English writers, says:—"These varieties have been very carefully bred for very many years in the south of England, outside of which, until recently, they were scarcely known; but now their great value as layers has made them very popular indeed all over the country, and they promise to become first favorites in this respect. Nor can we wonder at it, for their great fecundity, the large eggs they produce, their pugnacity and hardness, their adaptability for all soils and places, whether confined or otherwise, make them one of the most useful breeds we possess, and, being non-sitters, we must give them first position among all the laying breeds of poultry." The Minorca is a stylish bird, with stately, upright carriage, close, compact body, and of a stout, square build. Their combs are large and single, earlaps white, and face coral red. They are very hardy, either as fowls or chicks, and mature early, the pullets laying when eighteen to twenty weeks old. They are small eaters and splendid foragers, and, I believe, will become great favorites, especially among the farmers.—*J. D. N. in Country Gentleman*

IMPROVING OLD CURRANT BUSHES.—Two years ago, writes one of our correspondents from Wisconsin, I secured an old garden. Along one side of it there was a row of stunted currant bushes, the life of which had been nearly choked out by the grass in which they stood. The leaves were covered with worms, and they presented a sorry appearance. At first I thought I would dig them up and plant new ones. An examination of the roots convinced me that they were comparatively healthy, and I concluded to cut the tops back, clean out about them, and see what good cultivation would do towards reclaiming them. I had the ground spaded up, turning the sod under, and gave the soil a good top-dressing of manure, digging in a quantity about each plant. I cut off all the old tops and waited for developments. Very soon sprouts made their appearance from each bunch of roots, and of these I selected four or five of the best, and kept all others pinched off during the season. They made a vigorous growth. I allowed the hens to run among the bushes, and they proved better than hellebore in keeping the worms away. That fall I spread a lot of litter about the plants, and this spring I dug it in about them, and have given the ground among the bushes a liberal coating of chip-dirt from the wood yard. I allow the hens to wallow in it, believing that they will pick up all the larvæ that may be lurking there. The plants have blossomed wonderfully, and every stem was heavily set with fruit. Old bushes can be reclaimed, after years of neglect, by a little care and cultivation.—*American Agriculturist for October.*

Our Druggist informs us that Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup sells better than any other cough medicine.

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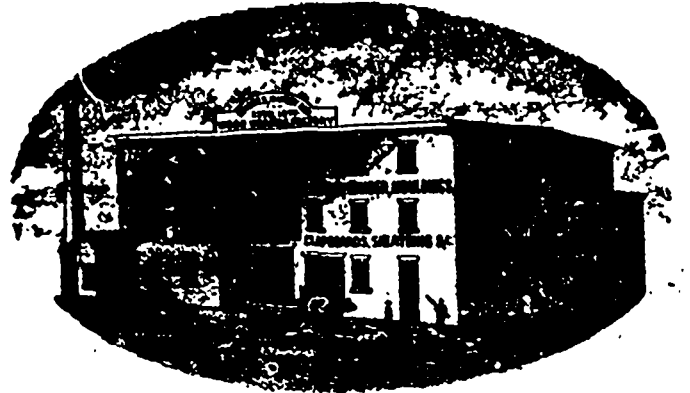
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