

**Correspondence.**

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**To Correspondents.**

Owing to the great pressure on our space this issue, we are obliged to keep over to the next month several communications, those from Batavia and many others.

**Land Plaster.**

SIR,—I have an extensive plaster quarry on my farm. We are just commencing to use it as a fertilizer. Would it be likely to benefit land near the quarry? Is it suitable on clay soil? Whether the white or gray the best quality. S. F.

Wallace, Nova Scotia, Sept. 18, 1877.

[Plaster, whether white or gray, is valuable as a fertilizer, though the way in which it benefits the soil remains a matter of doubt; whether as a means of attracting ammonia from the atmosphere and retaining it for plant-food, or by chemical action on the soil, is uncertain. But of its beneficial effects, however conveyed, there can be no doubt.

It will benefit the land near the quarry. In its present state it is not available as plant-food, even to "land near the quarry," as it would be when applied to the soil. This has been proved by the use of it in other localities, as for instance, the vicinity of Paris, Ontario.—ED.]

**Peach Beetles.**

Mr. J. A. Couse, of Wyoming, has sent to our office bugs that he found eating his peaches. We have shown them to Mr. Wm. Saunders, President of the Entomological Society of Ontario. The following is his description of them:—

*Euryomia inda*.—An oval, dark grey beetle, about half an inch long. Is not destructive other than being fond of sweets; will sometimes attack ripe fruits and feed upon them until the beetle becomes almost buried in their substance. In this manner they inflict injury on ripe pears, peaches and plums.

**Potomac Fruit Growers' August Meeting.**

(From our Washington Correspondent.)

Dr. Snodgrass read a paper on

**FRUIT CULTURE AND ITS RELATION TO HEALTH.**

The "Grape" cures of France and Spain are well established institutions. I know that individuals have been restored to health by the use of grapes, as well as by other fruits. Some years since, as presiding officer of the N. Y. Farmers' Club, I volunteered a prescription for those seeking health—Substitute lemonade, strawberries and the fruits in their season for salts, sulphur, sassafras tea, and the like popular remedies, and which too many people think indispensable to take every spring, to regulate the bowels and purify the blood. Throw the physic to the dogs, and take without stint of the various fruits—not as a dessert merely on an already overloaded stomach, but as a part of your regular food.

At one of the autumn meetings a tall and stately farmer from N. Y. rose and said: "Doctor, I want to report on your prescription. I did throw the physic to the dogs, and used instead strawberries, blackberries, currants, peaches, &c., in their term, as you recommended, omitting medicine for the first time in many years. Your prescription worked like a charm, and at least one man is grateful for it, and will be while life lasts."

Raise, then, friends, an abundance of fruits, and you will not only add a hundredfold to your own happiness, but also to the well-being and happiness of others.

**DISCUSSION.**

Dr. Braevold—If people would use less flesh and more fruit they would need less the doctor.

Dr. McKim—Children suffering from summer

complaints will find great relief if fresh and well-ripened fruit is furnished to them. I use no other medicine in dysentery. Last year I had seven cases of typhoid, which I treated with fruit (including melons, tomatoes, &c.). Six of them recovered; the seventh, through a complication of diseases, did not.

Gen. Muzzey came forward with a plump and healthy infant in his arms, and said when this child was born she weighed nine pounds; when 11 months old only 11 pounds, and we expected to lose her. Hearing of the fruit cure, we fed her peaches, all she could eat (she eating nine at the first sitting), and you see the result.

I may be allowed to suggest a prescription—If those men who have recently shown themselves "strikers" would go to raising fruits and using them instead of the salty, stimulating meats, exciting condiments and beverages, they would be cured of their troubles.

G. F. N., Washington, D. C.

**Unleached Ashes.**

SIR,—I have a small quantity of unleached ashes which I intend to use for top-dressing on grass land. Please advise me through the columns of the next ADVOCATE as to the best time for putting them on—this fall or next spring? L. A. Bristol, Westmoreland Co., Sept. 15, 1877.

[Ashes are more beneficial to the soil of grass land. When applied in the land, they serve to protect the crowns and roots of the more tender grasses from winter-killing. Another advantage from the fall application is that they are dissolved by the fall rains, and the plant food they contain is at once conveyed to the roots of the grasses, and rendered available for the earliest return of spring growth.—ED.]

**Horse Beans.**

SIR,—During my residence this side of the Atlantic I have often wondered why farmers don't feed their horses on crushed beans and oats mixed. These two, with hay and chaff, form the common fodder in England; why not here, when horses are known to do much better on such food? I have not seen a field since I left the shores of Old England.

Again, I am surprised that some genius does not invent a bean and oat crusher which could be turned by hand. It could be constructed either after the style of a coffee-mill or oil-cake crusher. To me, and I dare say to many others, such an invention would be a great boon in this country, where mills are few and far between.

P. E. I., Sept. 11, 1877.

[Beans have not succeeded well in Ontario, but they might in your part of the Dominion. A few are grown near Montreal. No hand-power crushing machine would find a sale in Ontario—horse-power and steam engines are cheaper than manual labor. See "Beans for Horses," page 232.—ED.]

The ADVOCATE has generally given what I always feel most interested in—the Garden and Fruit Department, for that concerns me most. I have the numbers of the ADVOCATE of the last three years as carefully preserved as my Bible. My boys used to read them with pleasure when they were home.

But what I wish to talk most about is the flies, bugs and grubs that annoy us so much every season. It seems that in spite of all the information you give about these pests, and all the experiments we try, they are determined to destroy our fruit and vegetables. Small as is our crop of apples this year, the codling grub seems to have the largest share, although in my main orchard I fenced in my fowl and kept two pigs all summer, until they began to bark the trees. So what next to do I know not, unless I try the bandage or strip of cloth around the trees—or something better from you.

Then our cabbages—as soon as planted the green bugs in thousands feasted on them until they stripped off all the leaves—and until they heart out. I tried unleached ashes, lime, soot and water—everything, to keep them little jumping bugs disturbed; but I had to re-plant several times. After the bugs comes the green caterpillar, to eat up what the bugs had left; and they have devoured about all the cabbage in this neighborhood. I think, however, that I have mastered them, having paid a great deal of attention to their destruction. I first picked them out

with my knife every day, and as I had a thousand plants it took up a considerable portion of my time. Then I got some hen dung and cow droppings, and made a liquid which I poured on the hearts of the cabbages. Next I got some roach lime and slacked it, and shook it unsparingly over them. My next dose for them was black pepper and mustard. So I saved my cabbages by a great deal of labor and watchfulness. On the edges of the leaves I would find thousands of young ones, striped, different from those that first attacked the inside of the leaves. I think these striped ones are engendered by the butterfly, that the ADVOCATE described.

If you have any better remedies than the above, please let me know, so as to be prepared for next season.

Queries.—1, Which way is best to keep cabbage through the winter—pit in the ground, or put in the cellar?

2, Which way is best to keep plums, crabs and harvest apples for shows, as they are all ripe before the shows commence in this part of the country?

3, I have some Philadelphia raspberry canes; they are some five or six feet high; would it be best to cut some of the tops off before winter sets in?

We have another pest, a little white fly, on the grape-vines (Clinton variety); had a prospect of an abundance of fruit, but these flies have eaten the leaves so that they crisp up and wither. The difficulty is to get at them, for they are on the under side of the leaves. I hope you will give me some advice how to manage them. N. B. C.

Walkerton, Sept. 3, 1877.

[1, Pit them. 2, Keep them as cool as possible. 3, Cut out all the old canes; cut off the tops of the canes of this year's growth; mulch the stools.—The white grape shall receive special notice.—ED.]

SIR,—Having a piece of low ground covered with water at certain seasons which I wish to reclaim by draining, I desire to get some information from you or some of the readers of your valuable journal. The ground is a pure marl deposit, eight feet thick, and has in places no admixture of soil on the surface; in spots there are two or three inches of very rich mould on the surface. Now, I desire to learn if timothy will grow in pure marl? If not, will any suitable grass for making good hay grow on it? If so what kinds? Any information on this subject will be thankfully received. R. J. D., Owen Sound.

[We have not known an instance of a bed of marl with no surface soil covering it. The depths at which the marl lies beneath the surface, as far as our experience goes, is from two to eight or ten feet. It is very valuable as a fertilizer, but judging from its constituent parts we doubt if a grass crop would succeed sown on a pure marl bed. Were the water drained off and the marl ploughed to the depth of a few inches, and that covered or mixed with any kind of earth, it would most probably form a good seed-bed for grass or other crops. Were the marl deposit on a farm of ours we would use it as a fertilizer on the other land.—ED.]

The "Galloway Club," composed of a number of jolly fruit growers from the Niagara Peninsula, amongst others Messrs. R. Currie, Gage Miller and J. Brown, spent a pleasant time during Provincial Exhibition, camping out near Ald. Christie's residence.

At the Fire Brigade Demonstration at Southport, England, Mr. Barnum in response to the toast of his health referred to the visit he had made to England during the last thirty-eight years, and said that he never left this country without feeling the same regret that he did on leaving his own home. He referred to the first time he visited England, observing that he came here prejudiced against this country; but on his next visit he became more interested in its government; and on his third visit his opinions entirely changed. He attributed the present strikes in America to its low legislative franchise, and hoped that England would be careful in extending its franchise, too much. Of the two governments he loved that of England better.—*English Paper.*

Winter wheat has been very extensively sown; the plant could not look better; it is now ready for a winter coat; some we have seen is now too rank, and is beginning to lodge, it will require to be fed off to prevent rotting or smothering.