

\* \* \* The matter which this page contains is carefully selected from various sources; and we guarantee that, to any intelligent farmer or housewife, the contents of this single page, from week to week during the year, will be worth several times the subscription price of the paper.

THE HOME.

She was always kind to me! That is a higher mood of grace than all the plaudits of the multitude. Let us raise the emotions that lead to discontent, thereby the grumbling, or the quick word. Let us stand guard lest the ambitious motives become paramount, and we desire things beyond our means, getting with a care-free mind. Let us prize more highly the privilege of giving and receiving kind sympathy, a happy, hearty companionship, than anything else the world has to offer.—The Housekeeper.

He settled himself back in the chair with a self-satisfied air and said, "Things have changed some since we were married, haven't they, Mary?" "A great deal, Joe," she replied, quietly. "The first year was very hard," he went on. "I didn't make any more than enough to pull us through. But I told you then I'd get up, and I have." "Yes," she admitted, "you have. You've made it much easier for me financially." "And I've worked hard to do it," he said with some pride. "I've practically worked day and night." She nodded and he continued: "I'll do better yet, Mary. I'll have you even more comfortable than now." "You will if you keep on working as you have worked," she said, "but—" "But what, Mary?" "I've sometimes wondered, Joe," with a faint smile, "if you quite understood the clergyman." "The—why, Mary?" "The clergyman who married us." "Why, what have I done?" he asked suddenly, straightening up in his chair. "Nothing wrong, I suppose, Joe," she replied in the same quiet way; "but it has seemed somewhat—just a fancy of mine, perhaps—it has seemed as though you had married the other. It seems more of you than—"

She stopped. It wasn't necessary to say any more. It was only necessary to kiss him to show that it was not in a purely fancy-finding spirit that she spoke, and she did that.—Selected.

Despite all that is said and written nowadays regarding grace and beauty in all things pertaining to daily life, it is astonishing how many people seem still to struggle with the notion that ugliness or ought to be somehow synonymous with virtue. Only the other day a young woman, the mother of a child who wore painfully ill chosen and ill-fitting garments, was heard lecturing another young mother on her manifest extravagance in dressing her child. Finally the latter began to defend herself. "You," she said, "are all wrong in your manner of reckoning extravagance. My child has many changes and is picturesquely dressed, because I give the matter some thought and have taste to make all her clothes myself. You may regard my doing so as a waste of time, if you will, but it is not extravagance. I am willing to challenge you or anybody to a comparison of expenses in the course of a year, and prove that I expend the least." It costs just as much money to produce ugliness as beauty in dress, and bad taste often displays more vanity than good taste, only it lacks the perception to give its own follies. I once knew a would-be dress-reformer who went about preaching the gospel of ugly clothes. She never wore a close-fitting bodice; she would have regarded that as a sin; I knew her to end the loose roundabout jacket she wore back to a dressmaker nine times for alteration. She was a striking exponent of the gospel of ugliness.

Little Things. "Poets have often invoked the muse For themes as mean as their old shoes." and indeed, one might thoughtfully condemn us for following in their footsteps, after a glance at our subject. To-day, the world to-day, we believe is rather more alive and awake to the power and influence wielded by the tiny moment, the whispered thought, and the humble deed, than ever before; yet even now the weight is of too small a calculation, their value of too small an appreciation. Each moment has in waiting for us some atom ready to add its weight to the load we are shouldering through life's journey. Perhaps it has some tiny pebble ready to be cast into waters around us, making circles of influence larger, and yet a little larger, widening outward to be lost in the sphere of pure unselfishness. Perhaps it brings us a tiny thought or inspiration destined to mar or beautify the clay we are busily moulding. Perhaps it brings a whisper of doubt to the mind hitherto strong in faith, or a hint of brighter promise to the soul perplexed and storm-tossed.

Napoleon once spoke of a "two o'clock-in-the-morning courage." That must have been the courage needed to cope with the details, and to smooth out smaller difficulties in the path of greater things that were contemplated, and grander victories that were sought. For such courage we may find a need in the life problems we shall often meet, or the fierce campaigns we must often wage. Is there not a Divine command for us, to be faithful in small things, with resulting promise of greater possessions—in the exercise of the small faith we have, with a promise of great fulfillment—in use of the humble talents and powers bestowed, with a power of growing strength? How then can we slight the trifles all around us? They are always at hand, we have all equal and indisputable claim to them, and it is but our own attention or indifference to them that makes us the fancied creators of a miserable destiny.—Sel.

Did Anybody Sneeze? If so that unfortunate person is taking cold. This is the time of the year when colds are in fashion. It is a dangerous fashion and often ends in permanent lung trouble or worse. It is wisdom would suggest Haver's Tolu as a preventive and effective remedy. Don't fool with a cold. You don't know what is fastened at the other end of it in these days of grippe and pneumonia.

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THE FARM.

Pruning Oblivious. No plant, unless it be the edible mushroom, certainly no plant or branch of a plant that produces edible fruit or grain—can yield any value unless its leaves can have full exposure to sunlight. We may see proof of this on a brief observation of growth in any orchard or grove, where every leaf seeks unobstructed light and where all branches which cannot gain this advantage for their leaves soon begin to decline and wither, never making any actual growth. This is the main principle upon which all pruning is based. The season for winter pruning is now passed, but there is a means often practicable which is incomparably better than pruning, and that is the propping or tying of branches, which shade or crowd each other so that they may be firmly fastened apart, each in open free space and light. This simple but invaluable resort is often available in crowded narrow trellises, but it is just as applicable to arched bushes or pot-bone vines, or wherever there appears an opportunity for its practice. It is always better to have two branches successfully flowering and fruiting than to needlessly cut one away.

Suggestive Contrast. There are many Bartlett pear orchards in this vicinity. All are profitable; none, however, clearly so as to be a certain orchard, of less than two acres. The average orchard of the average grower here is in soil, and seldom manured. It brings a few hundred dollars per acre more than \$300, and perhaps not over \$250 one year with another. The two-acre orchard mentioned brought to its owner \$1,600 this year, about \$1,000 last year, \$2,700 in 1890, and about \$1,500 in 1889, or about \$7,000 in the four years—just about \$1,000 annually per acre. Why such phenomenal result? Simply because the two acres are kept in high cultivation.

The owner applies heavy dressings of compost every year, and keeps the compost stirred during the first half of the season, never allowing a bit of weed-growth in the orchard. Of course, this is an exceptional case. The Bartlett pear crop is exactly suited to this locality and soil. No other could be expected to give quite so good a result. It is not to this extent only to show that thoroughness in manuring and cultivation pay. The owner of the orchard could afford to pay not only the full, but even an extravagant price for plant-food rather than as he might be tempted to do, half what his trees are enabled to bear when well treated.—Practical Farmer.

The Feeding of Calves. The sight of some skim-milk calves (?) lately is the occasion of this paragraph. It is past comprehension that some men can realize that a little carefully selected bovine baby, and so far needs caring for as cattle babies. These little calves have milk stomachs, and want the food that such stomachs can digest, and this does not mean hay, corn meal or whole corn, but a mixture of the best of all. In an outrageous manner by men who try to feed it in violation of the laws of nature. This little bovine wants its milk warm and sweet, 95 per cent. warm at least and should be fed at least three times a day. If the milk is skimmed, it should have a little cream added to it to take the place of the butter fat, which was put in the milk to assist in digestion, and the supply of milk should be increased to a full substitute, not far from three pounds to the 100 pounds of skim-milk. A heaping spoon of sifted oatmeal to each feed for three weeks is a splendid addition. Don't give the calves too much grain, as they cannot digest more than a few pounds, and the undigested grain goes into the bowels and ferments, and the result is that the calf gets the scours, often with fatal results. (When the calf begins to chew cud, it is then time to begin to feed on hay.) It is a little difficult curing the milk in September, when the weather is most likely to be as hot and dry as in June and July, when other forage crops are generally cured. Last September I saw a fine crop of Hungarian which the owner, a large dairyman and breeder, was about to cut and put into a silo. He had done so in former years, and made an excellent ensilage for his cows to convert into fancy butter.—Sel.

As to Surface Preparation of Soil. At a recent visit to the Wisconsin Experiment Station I was shown the root growths of our most familiar crops, showing how under natural conditions the roots of plants penetrate the soil and the directions that they take in their search for food. The most interesting feature I was impressed with the thought that, after all, the Egyptian and the dweller by the Ganges were quite as wise as ourselves in the matter of ploughing for crops, and possibly there was the better way of stirring the top three inches of soil to a very fine condition, and putting the fertility at the surface, where the first roots of the plant get an abundance of food and the latter growth of roots go far and wide in search of food, and to the depth of two and three feet. This collection showed that so far as our grasses, corn, oats, wheat and the like were concerned, the ploughing deeper or shallower, two or three inches, was a matter more of theory than of fact. The Professor's way is to take a hill of corn that has had shallow culture, and at maturity trench about it to the depth of nearly three feet, inches if in melting, and then to run the soil horizontally and supported at the ends by the network, and then wash the soil away. This leaves the roots suspended on these wires exactly where they grow, and shows that the greater part of the roots of all our crops are below the plough line. The exception that should be made to this is in the case of our tuber crops, like potatoes, that require a deep soil in which to afford a mellow soil for the expansion of the "fruits."

Of course there should be no suspension of the sowing of clover, the use of manure, or good tillage because the crops do root deep; but if this matter is studied and well understood, that our soils need surface stirring more than they need deep ploughing and inverting, and that the men who "dise" in their oats in the spring without ploughing and sowing wheat among the corn and give their crops shallow culture, and make a fine mellow seed bed for their crops, even if they do plough shallow, are the men who are getting fine returns for their labors, though they may be imitating in so doing the ways of the people who plough with a faked stick, but who repeat the ploughings until the surface soil is like the very dust for fineness?—N. Y. Tribune.

How to Fight the Tree Borer. Although spraying fruit trees will give more and finer fruit than they will bear without, and has become indispensable to the best results, yet spraying will not insure trees from all their enemies. In transplanting some yearling peach trees this March I was surprised to find them not too young to suffer from the borer. Cleaning the gum away from an unhealthy looking protuberance of the bark on the collar exposed the fat grub, still in his winter quarters. There are many different species of borers and their habits are different, but those infesting fruit trees mostly begin their work of destruction at the collar of the tree and are readily found by the chips laid at their outside root, nearly always mixed in the peach coarse cloth or mass of gum. A piece of copper wire perseveringly inserted will soon reward the operator with a knowledge that a soft body has been demolished. Some prefer to follow the burrow with a sharp knife till the grub is found. As the bark dies when it is separated from the body of the tree, cutting it smoothly away is an aid to more rapid healing of the wound. Hence, where the borers have had away and their runs are extensive, the knife is better. Better than either wire or knife is prevention. A strong soda made of one ounce of salt tar, one quart of soft soap and two gallons of water, well mixed and applied to the main branches and the surface of the trunk will keep the borer from laying its eggs on the tree. The wash should be put on the 1st of June and again the 1st of July, and it is at these times that the eggs are laid. A better than either wire or knife is prevention. It is good for applying it. The egg-laying form of the borer is winged. Hence parts not protected by the offensive wash may be readily reached.—J. M. M., in N. Y. Tribune.

Hungarian Grass. Many of our best farmers are often prevented from sowing and planting during the spring months all the crops they may have designed to grow, owing to the prevalence of frequent rains; and they are concerned to know what crops they can put in later to supply the deficiency that may occur in pasture or winter fodder. Hungarian grass—a species of millet—is a very good crop for either of these purposes. If the pasture dries up during the latter part of summer, it may be cut and supply of food for the stock, the pasture may be supplemented by green Hungarian grass, cut daily and fed green, or a supply for two or three days out at a time and partially wilted. If not needed during the winter, it may be cut while in bloom and cured for hay, generally yielding a greater burden, when well grown, than clover, timothy or meadow grass. I have known farmers to cut Hungarian grass that weighed from 100 to 150 pounds per acre after it was cured.

When we consider the question of nutritive value, we find that Hungarian grass contains 10.8 per cent. of albuminoids and 2.2 per cent. of fat, while timothy contains only 9.2 per cent. of albuminoids and 1.7 per cent. of fat. This grass grows well both on dry upland and on moist lowland. On the latter kind of soil, not dry enough to work in, I have sown Hungarian grass in June and harvested a good yield in September, when the weather is most likely to be as hot and dry as in June and July, when other forage crops are generally cured. Last September I saw a fine crop of Hungarian which the owner, a large dairyman and breeder, was about to cut and put into a silo. He had done so in former years, and made an excellent ensilage for his cows to convert into fancy butter.—Sel.

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