

Trapping the Skunk.

The skunk has a wide acquaintance and needs no introduction. But he is more widely than favorably known: for it may truly be said he is in bad odor with most people.

I will tell how I and my neighbors did it, easily and effectually. We trapped them, using a common steel trap as light as will securely hold them.

The animal knows the range of his battery, and is not likely to waste his ammunition—will not unless you approach him suddenly, threateningly, so as to frighten him.

The Uses of Charcoal.

I lately noticed in your paper a good description of the way to burn charcoal. I will give some of its uses to the farmer, from experience.

Cow stables will receive the same benefit and produce the same results. It is also invaluable in the poultry house, in keeping it wholesome for the fowls, and making a most valuable manure.

When charcoal is powdered and a little dropped in a potato hill when planted, it will double the crop, and will improve the quality beyond expectation.

Length of Roots.

Prof. W. J. Beal of the Michigan Agricultural College publishes the following interesting facts, mostly the result of his own examinations, in relation to the length of roots in plants and trees:

The soil has much to do with the length and number of roots. In light, poor soil, I find roots of June grass four feet below the surface.

to show that clover and Indian corn have any more weight of roots than June grass. They probably do not contain more.

The roots of a two-year-old peach tree in light soil were found seven feet four inches long. In a dry, light soil, this season, we pulled up one parsnip three feet long, and another three and a half feet long, small roots even still longer.

The noted buffalo grass on the dry western prairies, is described in the agricultural reports at Washington as having very short roots; but Mr. Felker, one of our college students, found they went down seven feet.

The roots grow best where the best food is to be found. They grow in greater or less quantity in every direction. If one finds good food, it flourishes and sends out numerous branches.

HORSE-SHOEING.—Murray writes: Never touch the bars, frog, sole or outer surface with a knife or rasp. Shoe with light thin shoes that allow the sole bars and frog to be brought in contact with the ground and thus bear their due proportion of the horse's weight.

PETROLEUM OILS FOR DRESSING LEATHER.—Petroleum oils are coming into use for dressing leather, and it is stated that their use for this purpose is largely increasing. It is claimed that by the use of petroleum many advantages are gained, among which are: that the leather can be reduced to the pliable condition more rapidly and with less cost than with pure animal oils.

A CALIFORNIA SPIDER.—What I am about to relate is nothing new to entomologists, but may be of interest to some of your readers. The California Spider, of which I am writing is one of the most ingenious of insects, and she constructs her dwelling as follows.—A hole is made in the ground six inches or more in depth, three-fourths of an inch in diameter.

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctor's bills.

MANUFACTURE OF COCOA.—We will now give an account of the process adopted by Messrs. James Epps & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, and manufacturers of dietetic articles, at their works in the Euston Road, London."

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

THE FIELD: Exhaustion of Soils and Their Recuperation... 141 Sulphur for Potato Beet's—New Potato Disease... 141 Ploughing Under Clover... 142 Absorbents for Farm Use... 142 Thick Seeding of Oats... 142 Gypsum and Ashes... 142 Curing Sowed Corn... 142 Action of Lime... 142

Ploughing in of Green Crops... 142 Poisoned with Charlock... 142 About Killing Willows... 142 Removing Boulders... 142 GRASSES AND FORAGE PLANTS: Red Top—Agrostis Vulgaris (Ill.)... 143 Manure for Grasses... 143 Frequent Seeding Advisable... 143 Mixing Clover and Timothy... 143 Lucerne—Alsike... 143 Lawns... 143 Grasses for Light Soils... 143 IMPLEMENTS: Care of Implements... 144 Repairing Waggon's... 144 Pale-Drawer for Fence Posts (Ill.)... 144 Reaping Machine Collect... 144 Kimmel Jack... 144 HORTICULTURE: THE ORNAMENTAL: More About Staking Trees (Ill.)... 145 Measuring Or. Trees with Choker... 145 Philosophy of Transplanting... 145 Puns on Peach Blossoms... 145 Wash for Fruit Trees... 145 Watering Trees... 145 Wild Goose Plum... 145 THE FRUIT GARDEN: English Gooseberries... 146 Rose Bug on Grape Vines... 146 Wheat to Prune... 146 Fruit House (Ill.)... 146 THE FLOWER GARDEN: Agra Palchella (Ill.)... 146 Soot Tea for Roses... 146 Compost for Flowers... 146 Evergreens from Cuttings... 146 German In's... 146 Pruning Evergreens... 146 THE VEGETABLE GARDEN: Peppermint—Proper Mode of Cultivation... 147 Growing Asparagus... 147 Vitality of the Potato... 147 Colorado Beetle's Food... 147 Heading up Cabbages... 147 THE BREEDER AND GRAZIER: Earliest Feed for Cows... 148 Duchess 2nd of Bercham Abbey (Ill.)... 148 Salt in Animal Economy... 148 Absorbents... 148 On Training Steers... 149 Economic Horse Management... 149 Bolling Pot-tees for Pigs... 149 To Tell When a Mare is With Foal... 149 Flies in Stables... 149 Growth of Merino Wool... 149 Kerosene for Linc... 149 VETERINARY: Parasitic Diseases—Round Worms... 150 Heat as a Disinfectant... 150 Horses' Summer Colds... 150 Burning Warts... 150 Inflammation of the Bladder... 150 To Drive Vermin from Dogs... 150 THE POULTRY YARD: The Carolina Duck... 151 THE APIARY: August Management of Bees... 151 To Prepare Comb-Honey for Market... 151 THE DAIRY: Condensed Milk... 152 Caves for the Dairy... 152 Holsteins as Milkers... 152 Desirable Points in Jerseys... 152 To Prevent a Cow Sucking Her calf... 152 Drop After Calving... 152 EDITORIAL: Work for August-September... 153 The Tree Pecker... 153 Location of Farmers' Sons... 154 Proposed Amalgamation of the Granges... 154 Ontario School of Agriculture Farm... 154 Terms of the County of York... 155 Chufas... 155 Wooden Shoes for Farmers... 155 The New Potato Disease... 155 Hay Fever... 155 Hay-Making by Artificial Heat... 155 Hay Fork Story... 155 AGRICULTURAL INTELLIGENCE: Split in the English Laborers' Union... 156 Sale of 5th Duke of Geneva... 156 Beer Consumption... 156 Farley & Co... 156 New Flour Barrel... 156 Stock Sales for the Month... 157 Stock and other Farm News... 158 New Granges... 158 SEEDS, ETC.: Winter Wheat—Seneca, Tappahannock, Silver Chaff... 158 India Wheat... 158 Swiss Oats... 158 Hullless Oats... 158 CORRESPONDENCE: Buckthorn for Iowa Hedges... 159 Painting Roofs... 158 Machine for Sowing Grass Seeds... 158 Phosphorus Soap... 159 Treatment of House Plants... 158 MISCELLANEOUS: Against Horse Racing and Gambling... 159 Growth of Salmon... 159 Some Simple and Serviceable Knots (Ill.)... 159 Japanese Fans... 159 Cause of a Trotting Horse Breaking... 159 Trapping the Skunk... 160 Uses of Charcoal... 160 Length of Roots... 160 Horse Shoeing... 160 Petroleum Oil for Dressing Leather... 160 California Spider... 160