

Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous.

Seed Corn.

Why will corn that is good seed planting now, germinate a year if it is kept in a dry place?

J. H.

Cider Vinegar

How to make a barrel of cider that has too much for cider. Could you tell me how to make it into vinegar?

F. S. R.

Keep the bung out of the barrel, and on account of the open wine rapid evaporation. Add an equal share of yeast for every five gallons of cider to hasten fermentation. Give the yeast cake in a cup of water before adding. When fermentation is complete add mother of vinegar, which can be obtained by mixing old vinegar with hard cider in a shallow, uncovered pan, and keeping at a temperature of 60 degrees F. In a few days a scum will form on this. This gelatinous coating is mother of vinegar, which should be placed on the surface of the cider in the barrel.

Strawberries Die.

When I set out some strawberry plants, and on account of the open wire the larger half of them winter-killed. The ones left now are dying (or, rather, rotting) (or share of them). On pulling up I find that the roots are dead, there appears to be a number of white worms, about half the size of a needle and about a quarter of an inch long working in them.

What can be done to kill the worms? What is the cause of the plants dying? What causes the buds to break over? There appeared to be some girdling them just before they were planted. I might say that the ground where the strawberries were on had barley the year and turnips the year before. That it was an old garden spot. Could that have anything to do with the worms being there?

A. S. B.

1, 2, 3 and 4. So far as one can tell from A. B.'s letter, the death of the strawberry plants that survived the winter should be attributed to the insect effect of the winter on the roots, possibly to the soil not being well drained for growing strawberries. There was a great deal of winter injury, not only to plants like strawberries, but also to trees that does not make itself apparent until later in the season, and especially until after a period of drought. As we had this year in June. Without having a chance to see the small worms found on the roots, I should think that these were merely some of the worms that commonly live in the soil and decaying roots of plants, but do little or almost no damage to living plants.

The teacher, wishing to impress on her pupils' minds the vast population of China, said: "Just think of it, children, two Chinamen die every time you draw your breath!"

A minute later her attention was attracted to little Jimmie James, who stood at the foot of the class puffing vigorously, with his face reddened and his cheeks distended. "What is the matter, Jimmy?" asked the teacher. "What on earth are you doing?" "Nothin', Miss Mary," was the indifferent response of Jimmy, "Just killin' Chinamen."

The Spice of Life.

An American paper wrote thus of Mr. Forman: "Mr. Forman has been married twice, and was also in the Civil War."

Mother.—Percy, I told you you could not go playing in the vacant lot, and I now observe that you have.

Percy.—My dear mother, you used the wrong verb. You should have told me that I "must" not go there, not that I "could" not.

A New England woman, probably of Irish extraction, who felt greatly disturbed because the cemetery in her community had not been properly cared for by those in charge, indignantly remarked to her husband: "I'll never be buried in that cemetery as long as I live!"

During the fighting a Highlander had the misfortune to get his head blown off.

A comrade communicated the sad news to another gallant Scot, who asked, anxiously: "Where's his head? He was smoking his pipe."

"Oh, Willie, Willie!" exclaimed the mother, shocked and grieved, "how often have I told you not to play with that naughty Johnson boy?" Willie, who was in a regrettable state of disorder, with a badly bruised face, looked at his mother in utter disgust. "Maw," he said, "do I look as though I had been playin' with anybody?"

A young wife, wishing to announce the birth of her first child to a friend in a distant city, sent the telegram, "Isaiah 9:6," beginning: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." Her friend, more literal and less familiar with the Scriptures, read the message and said to her husband: "Margaret evidently has a boy, but why on earth did they ever name him Isaiah? He must be healthy, though, for he weighs nine pounds and six ounces."

Some men at the club were telling dog stories after a day's shooting. After some time, when the tales had got very "tall," one little man, who had been quite silent, said: "I have a dog that makes all yours seem foolish. I generally feed him myself after dinner, but the other day a friend dropped in, and the poor animal slipped my mind. After the meal we went into the garden. The dog scratched up a flower and laid it at my feet, with a most yearning look in his eyes—it was a forget-me-not." Nobody told any more dog stories that evening.

A certain editor had cause to admonish his son on account of his reluctance to attend school. "You must go regularly and learn to be a great scholar," said the fond father, encouragingly, "otherwise you can never be an editor, you know. What would you do, for instance, if your paper came out full of mistakes?"

The boy looked up into his parent's face with childish innocence. "Father," he said solemnly, "I'd blame 'em on the printer." And then the editor fell upon his son's neck and wept tears of joy. He knew he had a successor for the editorial chair.

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