

On the Farm.

COVERING OF WOUNDS OF TREES.

It often happens that, either by intention, as in pruning, or by accident, trees are wounded in various ways. A common practice is to cover large wounds with coal tar; but this is objected to by some as injurious to the tree. Experiments made in the orchards and gardens of the Pomological Institute, at Rutblegen, in Germany, go to show, however, that its true use is not injurious; but that, on the contrary, a callous readily forms under the tar, on the edges of the wound, and that the wounded part is thus protected from decay. There is, nevertheless, another objection, for if the tar is applied a little too thick, the sun melts it, and it runs down on the bark of the tree. This can be obviated by mixing and stirring and thus incorporating with the tar about three or four times its weight of powdered slate, known as slate-flour—the mixture being also known as plastic slate and used for roofing purposes. It is easily applied with an old knife or flat stick, and though it hardens on the surface, soft and elastic underneath. The heat of the sun does not melt it nor does the coldest winter weather cause it to crack—neither does it peel off. The same mixture is also useful for other purposes in the garden. Leaky water-pots, barrels, pails, gutters, sashes, etc., can be easily repaired with it, and much annoyance and loss of time thus avoided. It will stick to any surface, provided it be not oily; and as it does not harden when kept in a mass, it is always ready for use. A gallon will last for a long time.

A most excellent preparation for small wounds and for grafting, is thus prepared: Melt a pound of resin over a slow fire. When melted, take it from the fire and add two ounces balsam of fir, or two ounces of Venice turpentine, not spirits of turpentine, stirring it constantly. As soon as it is cool enough, mix in four to six ounces of alcohol of 96 degrees straight—according to the season—until it is as thick as molasses. It keeps well in close corked bottles for a long time. Should it become too thick, by the gradual evaporation of the alcohol, it is easily thinned by putting the bottle in warm water and stirring in sufficient alcohol to bring it to a proper fluidity. It is applied with a brush. This preparation is much better than liquid grafting wax composed of resin, beef-tallow, and spirits of turpentine which often granulates.

DECAYING VEGETATION.

The products of the decay of the vegetable matter furnished by green manuring exert a very beneficial effect upon the soil. Among the most important of these products is carbonic acid. The acid helps to keep the soil chemically active, that is, to produce beneficial chemical changes which result in making more food available. This acid, further, helps largely to dissolve the useful constituents of the soil, especially the lime and phosphates, thus bringing them within the reach of subsequent crops. It also attacks the stones and rocks of the soil, helping to disintegrate them. This case of all rocks and stones containing lime.

The green manuring crop is useful, furthermore, because while it occupies the land the conditions are more favorable for those processes of fermentation which exert a beneficial influence upon the soil. These processes are favored by the shade furnished by the crop, by the restricted circulation of the air and by the more uniform soil temperature which the occupying of the land by a crop secures. The incorporation of the vegetable matter of the green crop in the soil may be the means of warming it. The darker color resulting from the presence of humus favors the absorption of heat from the sun, and the process of decay being in its final effect precisely like combustion by fire, helps to raise the temperature of the soil.

POTATOES FOR POULTRY.

On several occasions we have seen this subject very freely discussed in the correspondence columns of one or other of the poultry journals, some people contending that the analysis of the potato show it to be a very unfit food for use, while others maintain that practical experience proves to be most useful. We favor the latter. Judiciously given and blended with a little common sense, we consider the potato one of the best additions to our fowls' bill of fare. Only the day before writing these notes a case came under our notice where two neighbors both kept fowls and both had the same number, variety and accommodations. From twenty-four hens one was getting twenty eggs a day, the other ten. The former attributed the better laying of his birds to the use of a boilerful of warm potatoes mixed with his morning meal. It has always been our custom to use potatoes in some form or another, and we look upon them as both good and cheap. One plan we often adopt in the winter time is to instruct the poultry to place a boilerful on the kitchen range every evening after tea; these cook during the evening, and by the time the fire goes down are done, and the little heat left and their own steam keep them warm, and thus they are ready for mixing with the meal in the

morning earlier than they would if not prepared over night. At other times, when not feeding potatoes as above, we have a boilerful served round whole as an "extra" at midday, and find they are much relished.

ELECTRIC REFRIGERATION.

Mr. Henry Lyon, a Scotch electrical engineer, has completed an electrical refrigerator. The current is used inside the machine for driving off the ammonia, and owing to the fact that there are no moving parts, and that no skilled labor is required for attendance, the new machine, it is said, can be put on the market at a moderate price and it is calculated that it will prove a cheaper method of cooling than the indirect method of cooling by ice. Machines are under construction for the production of 100 pounds of ice per day.

SUMMER SMILES.

Traveler—Is this a healthful locality? Native—Well, rather. We have had but one death in nine years, and that was the doctor. Traveler—Indeed! And what did he die of? Native—Starvation.

Miss Cute—What made Miss Millions accept Cholly after first refusing him? Miss Pert—Oh, he looked so cheap when she turned him down that she couldn't let the chance for a bargain escape her.

The drumhead court martial was in progress. Step forward, Pat Murphy! Murphy, you are accused of pouring beer into the company's drum. What is your defense? If it pleases your honor, it was the kittle thrum.

They were engaged. Life, she said, as she arose from the piano stool, will be one long, sweet song after we are married. That settles it then, firmly responded her lover as he picked up his hat and took his departure.

Clara—One can't believe a word the men say any more. Maud—Why not? Clara—Well, there's Jack, he promised faithfully never to tell any one if I would permit him to kiss me just once, and in less than a minute he repeated it.

It's a shame, said the summer boarder, for you to waste so much land on that pig pen, when you might turn it into a beautiful lawn. Nay, said the farmer, who knew his business, the pen is mightier than the sword.

Patrice—You know, Will is training in a rowing crew. Patience—Is that so? Yes, but I don't think much of the trainer they've got. What's wrong with him? I heard him tell Will he didn't know how to use his arms.

Teacher—Tommy, I hear that you and Willy were fighting yesterday. Don't you know your little hands were never made to tear each other's eyes? Tommy—How could we tear each other's eyes with gloves on, 'd like to know? Why, Miss Meek, you don't seem to know the first thing about the rules of the ring.

The milk has a very bitter taste this morning, said the suburban resident. Well, was the answer, if you want good milk, you ought to be willing to help some. I've wondered time and again, why you didn't chase the cow out of your front yard. All them geraniums an' chrisanthemums an' things is enough to spile any cow's milk.

RAISING LEECHES.

They Are Caught on the Bare Legs of Farmers Who Wade in After Them.

The way the leech farmers go about their business is very interesting. Having fenced and watered a suitable meadow, they proceed to sow it with leeches by scattering them broadcast on the land from sacks containing 15,000 leeches each. All that is now necessary is to provide for the crop plenty of water and plenty of blood. The usual method of providing the latter was to drive old horses and cattle into the inclosures; but sometimes fresh blood from a slaughter house was supplied. When required, the leeches are caught by throwing a fresh sheepskin into the water. When the skin is taken out hundreds of leeches are found clinging to it, but a more primitive custom, and one still employed by collectors, is to wade in the water and allow the leeches to fix upon the bare legs.

Miss Mary Kingsley in her "Travels in West Africa," relates that once passing through a deep swamp, which reached to their chins, they all got horribly infested with leeches, having a frill of them round their necks like astrakhan collars when they emerged. The land leeches of the East are also very troublesome to both cattle and men. So abundant are they in some parts that soldiers and workmen are sometimes fatally weakened by the minute but persistent blood-letting. It is calculated that 30,000,000 were used annually in France and England alone. A single company in Australia used to export 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 per year to Europe and America. One Parisian capitalist affirmed that his leech crops returned him 15 to 1; and it is recorded that the monopoly of taking leeches in Morocco was once sold for £20,000.

A FACT.

Teacher—Now, Patsy, would it be proper to say, You can't learn me nothing? Patsy—Yes'm. Teacher—Why? Patsy—'Cause you can't.

HOUSEHOLD.

KISS HER AND TELL HER SO.

You've a neat little wife at home, John, As sweet as you wish to see; As faithful and gentle-hearted, As fond as a wife can be, A genuine home-loving woman, Not caring for fuss or show; She's dearer to you than life, John; Then kiss her and tell her so.

Your dinners are promptly served, John, As likewise your breakfast and tea; Your wardrobe is always in order, With buttons where buttons should be.

Her house is a cosy home nest, John, A heaven of rest below; You think she's a rare little treasure; Just kiss her and tell her so.

She's a good wife and true to you, John, Let fortune be foul or fair; Of whatever comes to you, John, She cheerfully bears her share. You believe she's a brave, true helper, And perhaps far more than you know, It will lighten her end of the load, John, Just kiss her and tell her so.

There's a cross road somewhere in life, John, Where a hand on a guiding stone Will signal one "over the river," And the other must go on alone.

Should she reach the last milestone first, John, 'Twill be comfort amid your woe, To know that while loving her here, John, You kissed her and told her so.

RUINED BY UMBRELLA STANDS.

You think that a hall is such a plain, matter-of-fact sort of apartment that it cannot require any improvements. Well, we shall see. How about that umbrella stand? It would be interesting to discover how many men in the civilized world are in danger of having their sweet tempers thoroughly soured by means of badly constructed umbrella stands.

A woman usually chooses an umbrella stand from the artistic point of view. If space is a consideration she may venture upon buying a large, ugly receptacle to which her irreverent husband will give the name "painted drain pipe." This temper-trying toy is usually placed in one corner of the hall—as far out of the way as possible—and is filled with the umbrellas and sticks belonging to the entire household.

Now mark what happens. The man comes home in the evening after one of his "bad days" in town. He is feeble, irritable and worried. He goes to this alleged umbrella stand and endeavors to put his umbrella therein. When the umbrella has got half way down it encounters an obstacle. The man tries to coax it downwards and fails. The "painted drain-pipe" is so full of other umbrellas that there is no room left for the most important umbrella in the house.

As a matter of fact, the man had managed to get his umbrella inside another one. If he happened to be very irritable he gave it a business-like push with the result that the end of his umbrella went through the cover of the other umbrella. In any case that man has begun his evening badly.

In the morning, when he wants his umbrella again, and probably in a hurry, he finds that in taking it out of the painted drain-pipe, he has also removed several other umbrellas at the same time. It is impossible to avoid doing this if the drain-pipe is full of umbrellas. The man stops to replace in the hall for ornamental flower pots, a man would gladly dispense with these decorations for the sake of the extra comfort derived from the knowledge that he can move about the hall without being in danger of knocking a valuable ornament over. A woman looks at the home from another point of view. She practically says: "Let the house be as pretty as I can make it, and if we must have such a commonplace article of furniture as an umbrella stand; let us hide it away if possible."

Sometimes a properly constructed umbrella stand is spoiled by being placed in a bad position. A favorite spot for it is underneath the hat and coat stand. This is apt to cause much vexation of spirit.

The overcoats conceal the tops of the umbrellas. A man pushes away the coats in order to find his own umbrella. It has vanished. He searches diligently, and finally discovers the fact that when he held the coats on one side he included his umbrella with them.

SUMMER PUDDINGS.

Apple Custard Pudding.—Stew some cooking apples in a little water and when done rub through a coarse sieve, and sweeten. Make a custard of milk, eggs and powdered sugar, with a little lemon flavoring. Pour the apples into a pudding dish, the custard mixture on top, and bake in an oven for half an hour.

Apricot Pudding.—Halve some apricots and remove the stones. Place over the stove in a stewpan with a little sugar and water. When about half cooked pour into a pudding dish, previously buttered and lined with a good suet paste. Cover the top with some of the paste, tie over with a pudding cloth, plunge into boiling water and boil for two hours.

Cherry Pudding.—Work thoroughly with a spoon one-half pound of warm butter, adding one at a time the yolks of twelve eggs and then one-half pound of powdered sugar. When it begins to froth put in a quarter of a pound of bread crumbs, a small quantity of sugar, and finally the whites of eight eggs, well beaten. Then take a large timble mould, butter it well, and on the bottom pour a layer of this mixture. Over this put a layer of preserved cherries, well drained. Continue in this way until full. Cover the mould with a baking sheet upon which are live embers, place in the oven and bake for twenty-five minutes. Turn on a dish and cover with cherry sauce.

Gooseberry Pudding.—Put a pint and a half of green gooseberries into a saucepan with a little water and stew gently until soft. Drain and mash them through a hair sieve. Warm slightly three-quarters of a pound of butter and beat it with the same quantity of powdered sugar. Then beat in the gooseberry pulp, eight eggs and four pounded lady fingers. Pour the mixture, when quite smooth, into a pie dish and bake half an hour.

American Black Pudding.—Put a quart of blueberries into a saucepan with one cupful of sugar and a pint of water, cooking until the berries are done. Butter some slices of bread, and put a layer of them at the bottom of a pie dish, pour over a quantity of the berries, and fill up the dish in this way. Place in a cool spot, and when cold serve with cream and sugar.

Peach Pudding.—Peel twelve ripe peaches and cut them in pieces. Put into a basin, sprinkle sugar over, and let them stand for an hour. Put a pint and a half of milk in a double boiler. Before preparing the peaches put one ounce of gelatine in a teacupful of milk and let it soak for an hour. Stir four beaten eggs with two tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar and the gelatine into the milk when boiling. Stir for about five minutes. Take the double boiler off the fire, and mix with the custard a little salt and a wineglassful of Madeira. Put the peaches into a glass dish, and when the custard has partly cooled pour it over.

CHINESE BABIES.

In this country there are very few little girls now who have their ears pierced for earrings, but in China every little girl baby as soon as it is a year old has her ears pierced. They pinch the lower part of their little ears until they are quite numb and then stick a sharp needle through with a red cotton thread, on one end of which is a little blue bead, which is left there.

Sometimes the little Chinese baby does not want its ears pierced, and then its mamma pierces kitty's ears to show how easy it is, and that nearly always makes baby wailing.

With the binding of their feet to make them small, and the piercing of their ears, the little Chinese girls do not have a very nice time of it.

AN ALUMINUM BOAT.

The Dr. Karl Peters, named for the German East African explorer who has been accused of cruelty in his administration, is a wonderful boat. She is being built on Lake Zurich for the German Government. She is built entirely of aluminum, for use on Lake Victoria Nyanza. She is 42 feet long, nearly 11 feet wide and will carry fifty persons. But she can be taken apart, into nine pieces, each of which, weighing only 160 pounds, can be carried slung on a pole by two men. Two tiny engines burn wood fuel and drive her about nine miles an hour.

WORLD'S BIGGEST HOUSE.

The Sultan of Turkey has just built at Mecca, the biggest house in the world. It is intended for the accommodation of pilgrims, and is capable of sheltering 6,000 persons. The next biggest house in the world is in a suburb of Vienna. It accommodates 2,112 tenants.

OPALS IN AUSTRALIA.

Opal mining is one of the latest Australian mineral industries. The principal opal mining center is White Cliffs, where the gem has been found in highly payable quantities and of the richest quality, within a radius of 10 miles, and a population of 1,500 thereabouts is settled there.

At a meeting of Kingshorn Town Council, Councillor S. Crawford was appointed provost by five votes to two.

The inhabitants of Thurso in the far north of Scotland, are at present undergoing a most curious, if unpleasant, experience. The other day during a strong wind, over a hundred bottled-nosed whales were stranded along the sands close to the town. To remove them, far less bury them, was out of the power of the inhabitants, and the summer sun, which is pouring its rays upon the beached bottlenoses, is making the little town almost uninhabitable. Short of a convulsion of nature to clear the offensiveness of the odour, Thuronsians have the prospect of being compelled to vacate their homes for the remainder of the summer.

LAND OF THE HEATHER.

INTERESTING NEWS FROM SCOTLAND'S BONNY BRAES.

The Betings of Scottish People and Items of Interest From England's Northern Neighbor.

The value of fish landed in Shetland during the month of May was £7,120 against £5,245 in the corresponding month of last year.

Mr. John McDonald, Deputy Procurator-Fiscal, Stronoway, has been appointed clerk and treasurer of the School Boards of Lochs Barvas and Uig.

The Rev. Wm. Taylor, assistant to the Rev. Hugh Mair, Wellpark Free church, Glasgow, has been unanimously elected minister of North Yell Free church.

The Glasgow fund for the erection of a statue of Mr. Gladstone now amounts to about £4,000, and the committee have agreed to invite designs from eminent sculptors.

Mr. Alex. Campbell, lately keeper under Mr. J. C. Stewart at Kinlochmoidart, has been appointed head keeper at Inverloch Castle with Lord Abinger.

John Naismith, a carter, committed suicide in his bedroom, Glasgow, by hanging himself with a piece of rope affixed to a nail in the wall over the head of his bed.

The Rev. Alexander Cockburn Buchanan, B.D., formerly assistant at Motherwell, was recently ordained and inducted as assistant and successor to Rev. D. Keith, Forres.

The Rev. J. N. McLennan, M.A., who has ministered to the Established church congregation at Kyleakin for about a year, has been appointed to the church at Dalwhinnie.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh, secretary for Scotland, is expected shortly to pay a visit to his relative, Mrs. Wardrop, of Edinburgh, who has taken Killiebuntly House for the season.

A child named Isabella Hood, aged 15 months, daughter of Matthew Hood, Ayr, succumbed recently to injuries received from falling into a tub of hot water while its mother was absent.

The death has just occurred at Ayr of the Rev. Henry Hareus, the oldest Baptist minister in Scotland. Mr. Hareus was born in the island of Westray, Orkney, on the 10th of May, 1810.

Mr. William Fraser, son of Mr. Alexander Fraser, chemist, Forres, has taken the first prize in the class of materia medica at Aberdeen University, and been awarded the bronze medal.

John Cameron, fireman of the steam ship Chevalier, sailing between the Crinan Canal and Corpach, dropped down dead on the run to Corpach, the excessive heat being the immediate cause of death.

Mr. John Williamson, a native of Fortrose, who lately left for the Sandwich Islands in the capacity of architect and road surveyor, has just been appointed road surveyor for Keekeu haele, Homkua, Hawaii.

At an Edinburgh Town Council meeting it was remitted to the Treasurer's Committee to consider the advisability of closing the Burns Monument and transferring the relics to the museum in the council chambers.

A memorial bust of the late Dr. Thomas Morrison, who was for nearly half a century rector of the Free Church Training College, Glasgow, has been unveiled in that institution by Sir John Neilson Cuthbertson, chair of Glasgow School Board.

An action brought by Mr. Ernest T. Hooley in the Edinburgh Court of Sessions to recover £50,000 from William Gardner Sinclair, damages for breach of an agreement to sell to him the rights of a paper-shaving machine, has been settled, Mr. Hooley receiving £350.

The action by the heir-at-law of the late Mr. John Hope, W.S., Edinburgh, for reduction of two testamentary deeds by which the deceased left his means to further the causes of total abstinence and Protestantism, has been compromised—the pursuer receiving £15,000 out of a total estate of about £400,000.

At a meeting of the Cemeteries Committee of Dundee Town Council, a deputation appeared from the Dundee Free Presbytery in support of a request that Sunday funerals should be discontinued unless in cases where there were exceptional circumstances. The matter was remitted to the convener and the cemeteries superintendent to consider and report.

It was reported at a meeting of the Aberdeen Town Council that negotiations had been completed with the city of Aberdeen Land Association for the formation of a street which will form part of a boulevard, which is intended to encircle the city. The street, planted on each side with trees, will be 86 feet in width, a mile long, and cost £2,700. The whole boulevard scheme will probably cost £20,000.

Mr. John Henderson, Glebe Farm, Mid-Calder, was recently gored to death by a bull. The animal had been restive all day, and when Mr. Henderson went to let it out as usual in the fields it attacked him. Mr. Henderson's young daughter made a brave attempt to beat off the animal with a hay fork, but had to run from the infuriated brute. Mr. Henderson's injuries were so severe that they had fatal results.