

Agriculture for Women.

The possibilities of agriculture as a pleasant and healthful means of livelihood for women who must support themselves, seems to be arousing popular attention, if one may judge from the fact that three communications in regard to the subject have found their way to this office within a single week.

The first refers to the steps taken by the Women's Massachusetts Homestead Association towards inducing the State to supply small suburban farms to the 100,000 spinsters of that State who must earn their own living, the farms to be devoted to the raising of flowers, herbs, mushrooms, strawberries, vegetables, squabs, chickens, bees and pigs. . . . The second describes in detail the Women's French garden at Henwick, Newbury, England; while the third is given in full.

The Henwick garden, it appears, has been the pioneer of a series of similar gardens throughout Southern England, the nucleus, in fact, of a "cult" which promises to become somewhat the fashion. It is wholly managed and worked by women, but for the exception of a single workman, and has reached such a state of proficiency that during the whole year there is now no gap in the constant sale of large quantities of produce raised upon it. For further detail we quote from the Daily Mail of London:

"A record of the whole year has not been yet made out, but here are some of the results of the first six months. These were then sold off an acre:

17,000 lettuce, 1,707 bunches of radishes, 500 cauliflowers, 1,200 melons (in spite of some loss), 1,600 bunches of turnips.

"To these must be added a very large amount of tomatoes—fifty pounds a day were sent off over a considerable period—of carrots, one of the principal crops, of endive-chicory, and celery. The last, of which specimens were shown at Olympia, was perhaps the most wonderful. It was grown without any piling up of earth at all. Instead, the plants were planted very close together, and in the "golden soil" grew to over four feet in height, thus effectually blanching one another.

"The results in this pioneer garden have been so successful that the area has been doubled in size, and more than doubled in equipment. It now contains 3,000 cloches and 900 lights. The scene was singularly attractive when visited yesterday. A six-ft. fence, entirely built by ladies, surrounds the garden, and against it on the inside are espalier fruit trees. Immediately inside, a broad bed all round is reserved for the "outside" garden. Inside this again, beginning from the top, where the "Frenchman's" snug house is planted, are the lines of frames filled in every inch with lettuce and carrot and cauliflower in a happy family. Alongside these there are the cloches, each with four lettuces, and again the carrot seedlings.

"Below are the long, pointed ridges of heaped soil, already black. Between these and the frames was one frame-width of manure—two-thirds new, one-third old—over which some of the lady students were beginning to spread the six inches of black—or golden—soil from the near end of the piled ridges. Below the ridges again other students were preparing the ground for future melon frames, and several others were busy making frames in a shed within the garden.

"The heaviest item of expenditure during the year was £120 on manure, which is here expensive, but the gardeners look forward cheerfully to spending £240 this year.

"The whole capital outlay when the two acres are fully equipped, including two deep wells, oil engines, fencing, the house for the "Frenchman," his wife and five children, as well as all garden paraphernalia, will amount to rather less than £1,000.

AGRICULTURE FOR WOMEN.

The question of "Woman's Lot on the Farm" leads us to another important subject, viz. Agriculture for women.

Now, with the exception of a few isolated instances, general or mixed farming, or specialized farming in the usual acceptance of the term, such as exclusive grain or stock-raising, has not been found suitable or profitable when undertaken by women, but there are a number of branches of agriculture for which women are peculiarly fitted, e. g.: Poultry,

bees, horticulture, floriculture, and fruit-farming, and from which rough and heavy manual labor—man's work—is conspicuous by its absence.

Doubtless it will be objected that the nature of the work will entail a certain amount of isolation and lack of social intercourse; also, perhaps, that it is beneath the dignity of a fairly well educated woman to do outdoor work. Let us, for a moment, consider these two objections. The former is easily surmounted by the system of co-operation which has worked out exceedingly well in several

she has appealed to the Dominion Government to extend to women emigrants the grants of free land. It is questionable whether there would be many such applications, unless from widows, with children who are eligible for free grants.

The Superintendent of Immigration at Ottawa has informed the lady alluded to, that women with a little capital may find a suitable opportunity to become dairy, poultry, fruit and vegetable farmers in the neighborhood of railway stations, on small plots of land which are now being bought for this purpose in many



General View of the "French" Garden and Vegetable Farm, Henwick, Near Newbury, Eng.

cases, not only in providing a comfortable and happy existence, but also in a pecuniary sense. As regards the work being derogatory, surely this is a notion of "false-pride." Many women of culture and refinement, including Queen Alexandra, take a pleasure and pride in personally superintending their dairies and gardens and orchards, and this, not simply as a hobby or pastime, but often as a profitable pursuit.

The Gold Medal of the Royal Horticultural Society, England, has often been gained by educated women, and two of them have lately joined forces and taken a small farm not far from the great

districts of Eastern Canada, especially in Ontario.

The whole question is fraught with great potentialities, and it can be argued that for many women, who are of highly-strung and sensitive natures, but who nevertheless, have to make their own living, the outdoor life would in every way be better than the drudgery and confinement of the factory, work-room or store.

ATCHESON IRWIN.

Fairy Land.

Over hill, over dale,

Through bush, through brier,



Preparing Soil in the Forcing Frames, French Garden, Henwick.

metropolis for the purpose of raising tomatoes, cucumbers, mushrooms, asparagus, flowers, and other dainties of the table, and their efforts look like being crowned with much commercial success.

Quite lately, an optimistic account of the opening for women in the agricultural line in Canada has appeared in a well-known English weekly journal. The writer, an Englishwoman, says that she has been farming in Western Canada for three years to see if it would be a practical and profitable occupation for women, and that she has proved it to be entirely practicable and reasonably profitable and

Over park, over pale,

Through flood, through fire,

I do wander everywhere.

Swifter than the moon's sphere,

And I serve the fairy queen,

To dew her orbs upon the green;

The cowslips tall her pensioners be;

In their gold coats spots you see;

Those be rubies, fairy favors.

In those freckles, live their savors,

I must go seek some dew-drops here;

And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear.

—Midsummer Night's Dream, II. i.

The Ingle Nook.

[Rules for correspondents in this and other Departments: (1) Kindly write on one side of paper only. (2) Always send name and address with communications. If pen-name is also given, the real name will not be published. (3) When enclosing a letter to be forwarded to anyone, place it in stamped envelope ready to be sent on.]

A Budget of Questions.

Dear Dame Durden,—I have been helped a great deal from letters to and from the Chatterers, and I feel I would like to help someone. Someone asked for lemon biscuits; mine are excellent.

Lemon Biscuits.—Two cups sugar, 1 cup lard, 2 eggs, 5 cts. oil of lemon, 5 cts. ammonia, 1 cup milk, flour to stiffen; knead 20 minutes.

Lemon Pie.—Two eggs, whites for frosting; 3 tablespoons cold water, 1 lemon, rind and juice; 1 cup boiling water, 1 cup white sugar, 3 even tablespoons cornstarch. Grate and squeeze the lemon, add the rind to the juice, beat the eggs and pour the juice on eggs, stirring well. Put the cornstarch and cold water into a granite pan, mix thoroughly, stir in boiling water, add sugar, and cook until quite clear. Stir the egg mixture into cornstarch; put into baked crust. Beat whites stiff for top, and brown in oven.

Packed Eggs.—The best way is to get a large box, cover bottom well with salt, then put in eggs small end down, and so on, until the box is full, leaving room for a good supply of salt on top. Put lid on, and you will have a supply of good eggs until June.

I have some questions to ask, but if it is too much do not bother.

1. Are the "Lazy Wife's pole beans" for a pickle, or to be cooked like freshly-picked beans? Do you put salt in water to keep beans?

2. Would like to hear something about bread-mixer; also more about fixing over the old home, to be handy and save steps.

3. Would like to get a good book that would explain to my children about life through flowers.

4. Would like a good recipe for short-bread.

5. Would like to hear how someone else cooks liver.

6. Does anyone know how to make pancakes, with bread soaked in buttermilk, and very little flour?

7. Does dipping butter-print into buttermilk hurt the butter?

8. Do any of the busy mothers use a dish-drainer?

Have good recipe for dandelion wine.

I missed recipe for scalloped potatoes sent by Jack's Wife.

Many thanks for omelet recipe from Merry and Polly, and others.

With many thanks to "Hope" for help and encouragement received through the Quiet Hour, also for the many helpful letters through the Ingle Nook.

AUNTIE.

P. S.—Can paint be removed from brick wall that has been on for years; outside wall?

Ans.—1. Will the member who wrote re "Lazy Wife's pole beans" kindly answer this question?

2. At the Women's Institute Convention at Guelph last fall the question was asked as to how many present used the bread-mixer. A great many held up their hands, and all but two or three expressed themselves as well pleased with the machine. Miss Van Rensselaer, of Cornell University, who was the speaker for the time, said she thought the reason the latter were dissatisfied was that they were not using the mixer properly. In her work in New York State, she had talked with many who used it, but had failed to find one who, on learning to use it properly, would go back to the old way. The bread-mixer costs about \$3, and should mix the dough in from three to five minutes. . . . In regard to the question about fixing over the old home, if you will send us a plan of the house as it is at present, we will see what we can do for you.

3. Grant Allen's "The Story of the Plants," published by George Newnes, Southampton street, Strand, London, Eng., is probably what you want. Price