

**FERTILIZERS**—In Georgia the merchants are selling "fertilizers" to the planters to be paid for out of the next cotton crop at the rate of 15 cents a pound for cotton—the price of the staple in Liverpool now being only about 13 cents. Somebody must make by this sort of operation, of course; but who does make, the planter or the dealer? Probably the make is in the making of the fertilizers, a manufacture only too full of ways that are dark and tricks that are vain.—*Grocer.*

**ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE**.—Pressure of the atmosphere is now applied to the raising of coal in the Creuzot district in France. The air is exhausted from a hollow tube running along the shaft from the bottom to the top of the colliery. At the foot of this tube is a piston fitted to it, and supporting a cage into which the coal to be raised is put. When the cage is full the air from the mine is allowed to press upon the piston underneath, and there being a vacuum above the piston and the cage, the load is borne upward to the surface. Not only is the coal raised in this way, but the ventilation of the mine is vastly improved, for the contaminated air of the colliery flows up through the tube, bearing the loaded cage above it, while its place is supplied by an overflow of fresh air from the surface.

**A NUT FOR DR. DARWIN**.—Under this title the *Peterhead Sentinel* writes:—There may be seen in the possession of Mr. A. Macpherson, naturalist, &c., Bankhead, a *rana* or egg prodigy. This curiosity was dropped by an ordinary barn-door chickie, the property of Mr. J. Gill, Woodend. The nondescript is two eggs, i.e., an ordinary sized egg with another complete egg inside. Egg No. 1, or outer egg, was baled and topped in usual manner for breakfast; but lo! when the spoon and magic pinch of salt was introduced, it turned up egg No. 2, which had found a comfortable nest at the side of the yolk of No. 1. Upon examination, No. 2 is in size and shape like the egg of the swallow, the shell quite hard and properly formed. We believe this is the only instance on record of a complete egg within an egg.

**NEW METHOD OF CLEANING WOOL**.—*Les Mondes* describes M. Pauline's new method of cleaning wool for which such important advantages are claimed. According to this, a current of air of thirty to forty degrees temperature is passed through the raw wool, followed by a current of hydrochloric acid gas, previously dried and cooled. In this way the wool is not affected, but any vegetable substances adhering to it are speedily and entirely decomposed. After this has been effected, a current of air is passed through to dispel the hydrochloric acid gas, and the temperature is gradually raised to one hundred and thirty degrees, to complete the destruction of the various vegetable matters. This being done, a current of air charged with ammonia vapor is then passed through, in order to get rid completely of any remaining traces of hydrochloric acid, and the operation is accomplished.

**A BABOON MOTHER**.—Mr. Hazeley in his African lectures vouches for the following: A woman belonging to a settlement of about 150 souls went one day to gather some wood and left her child on the ground to take care of itself. While the mother was gone a female baboon appeared on the scene, and spying the child approached, and began to fondle it. The child was allowed to partake of the baboon's milk, which deprived it of any appetite for its mother's. When the mother returned she noticed that the child was carefully covered over with leaves and had lost its hunger. This was done for several days before the mother ascertained who performed the unthankful act. When the mother did find out the doer she induced the man of her tribe to lie in wait for the baboon the next day. The animal noticed the men raise their weapons to fire and began to wave her hand, or paw, as if asking them not to kill her, and at the same time pointed to a young one at her breast. But the natives killed her. No sooner had they done so, however, than the male baboon put in his appearance, and, by a loud shout, summoned others of his tribe to the spot. Then in a body the animals attacked the natives and forced them to flee to their huts for safety. One of the baboons tracked them to their settlement and the next day they were visited by about 500 baboons, who assaulted them with coconuts and compelled them to run away from their homes. The animals kept a watch over the huts for several days and prevented the natives from returning to their dwellings.

The *Pinecastle Herald* has been informed that a piece of iron, hung in fruit trees, will effectually prevent the ravages of frost. A piece of horseshoe was hung in a cherry tree in an orchard, and the yield was abundant, while in three adjacent trees the fruit was entirely killed. "This is important, if true, and will cost but little to test the truth of it," says the sage editor of another journal. Certainly very important, if true. Not being true, it is very important such ridiculous notions should be "scotched" if not killed. A reaping hook stuck on a pole, it is said, in some districts effectually warns off all the hawk tribe from the vicinity of the poultry yard. Horse hair turns into eels in the water. Swallows and cuckoos, during winter, hang by their bills in a dormant state in rocky caverns. Vipers swallow their young at the approach of danger. And among other popular fallacies, there is a man in the moon doing penial servitude for life, for gathering sticks of a Sunday. As he appears to be stationary to child eyes, he is not supposed to be the "Wandering Jew." The *Pinecastle Herald* appears to be very ill-formed indeed.—*Eng. Farmer.*

It is an interesting fact that our word daughter, when traced back, through the Greek *thugater* to its source in the Sanscrit *duhitri*, is found to be equivalent to milkmaid, showing that it was the duty of the Indian maidens to milk the cows. It was no doubt considered a highly honorable office, since the cow, the most valuable animal to a pastoral people, soon came to be endowed with supernatural attributes.

**A NEW PROPERTY OF MILK**.—A correspondent of an English daily paper, says: "There is one circumstance respecting the peculiar properties of milk which I have not seen alluded to in the newspaper articles on the subject, but which seems an additional proof of its power of attracting and absorbing impure matter. I allude to the practice of placing a saucer of new milk in a larder, in order to preserve meat or game from approaching taint. It is said that not only does it answer that purpose, but that the milk after a few hours becomes so bad that no animal will touch it."

**A PLAGUE OF MICE**.—The English *Agricultural Gazette* draws attention to an extraordinary plague of mice which has now prevailed for months in Teviotdale and Eskdale, and which is believed to be owing to the reckless destruction of hawks and other birds of prey by gamekeepers and others, thus disturbing the "balance of nature," and causing such an increase of the vermin that "the consequences to the farmers are likely to be very serious." The Duke of Buccleuch has now given orders that hawks and other predatory birds are to be preserved, but it will be some time before the mischief can be undone. The lesson may bear a far wider application than this particular case.

**THE FARMS IN ENGLAND**.—Reference to the big farm in Illinois—40,000 acres, 18 corn, 5 oats and flax, and the rest in grass—has recalled a notice of the *London Spectator*, from the *Domesday Book* of Scotland, which has a list of those landlords who each own more than 20,000 acres of land in that country. The result is that one man alone, in his own and his wife's right, holds more than a fifteenth of the entire area of the Kingdom, and twelve men own nearly a third; a proportion probably exceeding anything in Western Europe. No less than 106 hold more than 50,000 each. The 11 who own the largest amounts of land are: The Duke of Sutherland, 1,176,343 acres; Duchess of Sutherland, 149,879 acres; Sir J. Matheson, 106,070 acres; Mr. A. Matheson, 220,432 acres; Duke of Buccleuch, 432,153 acres; Earl of Seafield, 306,000 acres; Mr. Evan Baillie, 306,000 acres; Earl of Stair, 270,000 acres; Duke of Athol, 131,000 acres; Sir K. MacKenzie, of Gairloch, 164,680 acres; Macleod, of Macleod, 141,700 acres. The old idea that the Duke of Sutherland owns an entire county is not true, but the Duke, with his wife, the Countess of Cromartie, owns more than the entire surface of any county in England, except Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

**LANGUAGE OF ANIMALS**.—The acuteness of the sheep's ear, it is said, surpasses all things in nature that I know of. The ewe will distinguish her own lamb's bleat among a thousand, all bleating at the same time, and making a noise a thousand times louder than the singing of psalms at a Cameronian sacrament in the fields, where thousands are congregated—and that is no joke either. Besides, the distinguishment of voice is perfectly reciprocal between the ewe and lamb, who, amid the deafening sound, run to meet one another. There are few things which have ever amused me more than a sheep shearing and then the sport continues the whole day. We put the flock into the fold, set out all the lambs to the hill, and then send the ewe to them as they are shorn. The moment that a lamb hears its dam's voice, it rushes from the crowd to meet her, but instead of finding the rough, well clad, comfortable mamma which it left an hour or few hours ago, it meets a poor, naked, shrivelling—a most deplorable looking creature. It wheels about, and uttering a loud, tremulous bleat of perfect despair, flies from the frightful vision. The mother's voice arrests his flight—it returns—flies, and returns again generally for ten or a dozen times, before the reconciliation is made up.—*James Hogg.*

Catalogues, &c. Received.

**THE "POULTRY YARD AND MARKET."**—This is a valuable little work of eighty pages, issued by the Orange Judd Co. It professes to treat the whole poultry question from a commercial standpoint.

We have received the monthly reports for March and April of the United States Agricultural Department.

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