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NEW SERIES.

The Field.

Carbolic Acid For Farming

Some experiments made with this article by a few tanners, for the purpose of preventing decay, make it probable that further experiments in other directions, in the process of preparing hides for tanning, will bring it into prominent use in this industry. The peculiar property of this acid is that of destroying the lower forms of animal and vegetable life, and thus preventing decay; it coagulates albumen and prevents fermentation and mildew, and, by stopping fermentation, will act to prevent the changing of tannic acid into gallic acid.

Carbolic acid is produced by distilling the coal tar of the gas works, and has found application in several industries, as in the manufacture of aniline colors, and for its superior disinfecting qualities, arising from the before-mentioned fact of being destructive to all lower forms of animal and vegetable life. There are various grades manufactured, the lowest being ten per cent., running up through successive distillations to the crystallized form. Four grades are used mostly to commerce, but for tanners' use, probably the best and most economical is the second grade, or sixty per cent., which sells at a wholesale at \$1.75 per gallon. This admits of large dilution; at least one part to six hundred of water would be sufficiently strong for all practical purposes of the tanner. In diluting, it is best to first agitate, say, one gallon of acid with about forty or fifty gallons of warm water, and when thoroughly mixed pour in the balance of the six hundred gallons. In this proportion it is most valuable for the purpose of checking decay and destroying animal and vegetable life. As it is a poison, due care must be used in handling, as it acts as any other powerful acid when coming in contact with the skin. It is better and safer to use it largely diluted and allow the skins to remain

immersed in the liquid for a few days than to use it in greater strength and only a short time, as, in the former case, the active property of the acid has an opportunity to effectually permeate the skin and thoroughly stop decay, while in the latter case it only acts on the outer portion, leaving the germs to grow again, as soon as the effects of the acid have worn off.

We have received many inquiries from tanners as to the proper method of using this article, and give the above as the best information we at present have on the subject. It must be remembered, however, that, if the acid is applied before the hides are un-haired, it will be next to impossible to afterward remove the hair, until the acid is completely washed out. It is only by the decay of the hide, and consequent loosening of the fibers at the roots of the hair, that the latter can be easily removed, but when this operation is completed, the action of the carbolic acid is rapid and complete in stopping any further decay and fermentation. So far as is at present known, the application of the acid does not at all interfere with the plumpness of the hide, nor does it at all injure the color of the leather, the evidence being, on the contrary, that it rather has a tendency to bleach and whiten the leather. It will, undoubtedly, also have an effect in preserving the sweetness of the tan liquors. *Shoe and Leather Reporter.*

Esparto Grass.

We wonder if any Canadian farmer has ever tried to cultivate Esparto grass. If not let us tell him that the Spaniards are making money rapidly by selling this grass to British paper manufacturers, who have largely adopted it in their manufacturers. So large is the demand for materials with which to manufacture the better class of paper that considerable quantities of Esparto grass are being imported to cities of the United States, notably Philadelphia, which is largely engaged in paper making. The quantity consumed by Great Britain is beginning to

attract considerable attention there. No less than five millions of dollars are said to have been paid by England last year for this grass: and in view of this heavy draw, and the certainty of its continuance, the British Government are taking steps to provide for its experimental cultivation on a large scale as a crop. The plant, it seems, wants a strong summer heat, and if this is all, we imagine that there are districts in the Dominion where the plant would thrive and bring in a handsome return to the cultivator. Possibly some enterprising farmer may think it advisable to make the experiment on a respectable scale.

Curing Fodder Corn.

A correspondent of the Boston Cultivator says he cures fodder corn successfully by cutting it on the morning of a fine day, binding it in small bundles in the afternoon, and then setting these bundles on each side of a horizontal pole upheld by crotches or stakes, running in a north and south direction. He makes the bundles two deep, and when this is done he puts another pole just over the tops of the bundles (sustaining it by stakes as before), and on the ridge pole he puts another row of bundles as a cap for the first two, half of each bundle on each side of the pole. This arrangement admits of a free circulation of air through the stalks, and gives both sides an equal chance for the sun's rays. He has practised this mode five years with entire success. The corn is grown in rows three or four feet apart, sown thickly, and is cut when nubbins begin to form.

This mode will do very well for small quantities of fodder, but where it is desired to cure several acres we think it would be found cheaper and more convenient to use wires instead of poles. Use stout wires, brace the end posts firmly as for a grape trellis, support the wire by stakes at needed distances, and it will greatly expedite the work, and all the materials may be used for many years.