

FARMERS' COLUMN.

SELECTIONS.—Grow those crops you know best how to grow, adapted to your soil, location, markets and means, grow them every year, be the price high or low, study them so as to grow good crops when others fail, until you can grow them profitably at prices at which other would starve.

LOADING COWS.—Does the dairyman ever suspect that some cows are dreadful loaders? If flies happen to be particularly bad some cows will spend most of their time standing in the water. Some dairymen think the act of standing in the water absorbs the milk from cows. They little suspect it is simply the effect of loading away her time.

NOXIOUS WEEDS.—It seems to be a great puzzle to some persons how to get rid of noxious weeds. There is one certain method, which never fails, if it is properly and persistently put into practice, namely, keep all the leaves and stems cut close down to the surface. It makes but little difference what kind of an instrument is used for this purpose, whether it be the hoe, plough or cultivator, only let it be used so frequently that the plant can get no opportunity for breathing, as it were through its leaves.

CARROTS INSTEAD OF EGGS.—An exchange says, "It is not generally known that boiled carrots, when properly prepared, form an excellent substitute for eggs in puddings. They must, for this purpose, be boiled and mashed, and passed through a coarse cloth or hair sieve strainer. The pulp is then introduced among the other ingredients of the pudding, to the total omission of eggs. A pudding made in this way is much lighter than where eggs are used, and is much more palatable. On the principle of economy, this fact is worthy of the prudent housewife's attention."

THE BEST FIELD BEANS.—The American Rural Home says that in Western New York the medium and marrow are most planted and the white kidney and early pea to a limited extent. The medium is considered the most reliable, as from its early ripening it is less effected by the vicissitudes of the seasons. It sells for less, however, than the other varieties named. The marrow is quite a popular variety, and on a strong soil is very productive. It is quoted thirty-five cents a bushel higher than medium in the Rochester market, now, and the same as kidney. The white kidney has large stalks, requires a longer season to be matured in, and is more liable to be spoiled in ripening. When everything, however, is favorable, it will, of course, make a difference in what way the beans are planted as to the quantity of seed required, but farmers generally use about a bushel of the marrows and mediums to the acre, rather more of the kidneys, and about half as much as the pea bean.

AIR SLACK LIME FOR CHICKENS.—In a recent conversation with an experienced chicken grower he informed us that he had been very successful in conquering gapes in young fowls by the application of air-slack lime. As soon as manifestation appears, he confines his chickens in a box one at a time, sufficiently large to contain the bird, and places a coarse piece of cotton or linen cloth over the top. Upon the top of this he places the pulverized lime, and taps the screen sufficiently to cause the lime to fall through. This lime-dust the fowl inhales, causing it to sneeze, and in a short time the cause of the gapes is thrown out in the form of a slimy mass or masses of worms, which had accumulated in the windpipe and smaller air vessels. This remedy he considers superior to any he has ever tried, and he seldom fails to effect a perfect cure. He has assured all those mechanical means by which it is attempted to dislodge the Entozoons with instruments made of whalebone, hog's bristles, or fine wire, alleging that people are quite as certain to push the gape worms further down the throat of the fowls as to draw them out.—Lancaster Farmer.

ARTIFICIAL MOTHER.—There often occurs in the raising of chickens a case where the hen weans her brood too early, or by disease or accident, they are deprived of her shadowing wing and genial warmth. We may sometimes be able to repair this loss by dividing them among other broods; but such attempts are often attended with risks we do not care to encounter, hen step-mothers not being proverbial for amiability. The best substitute is the artificial mother, which consists of a board twelve or thirteen inches square, sufficient for one brood, to which is tacked loosely a piece of long woolled sheep-skin. It should be four inches high in front and two inches at the back side. Or, a still better arrangement is to suspend the "mother" four inches from the ground or floor, leaving the two sides to be curtained with flannel for ingress and egress, while two inclined planes, slanting from the centre (which is within two inches of the sheep-skin), afford opportunity for the "crowding" of the larger chick with the consequent smothering of the smaller ones, as may be the case when the first-named plan is adopted. Small holes for ventilation should be made in the sheltering-top, and sulphur sprinkled among the wool to prevent the collection of vermin.—Poultry World.

TO OBTAIN FRUIT FROM BARREN TREES.—A correspondent of the American Agriculturist says: "I wish to describe to you a method of making fruit trees bear that I blundered on. Some fifteen years ago I had a small apple tree that leaved considerably. I drove a stake beside it, tied a string to a limb and fastened it to the stake. The next year blossomed full, and not another blossom appeared on the tree, and, as Tim Bunker said, 'It set me a thinking; and I came to the conclusion that the string was so tight that it prevented the sap from returning to the roots; consequently it formed fruit buds. Having a couple of pear trees large enough to bear that had never blossomed I took a coarse twine and wrapped it several times around the tree above the lower limbs and tied it as tight as I could. The next spring all the top above the cord blossomed as white as a sheet, and there was not one blossom below where the cord was tied. I have since tried the experiment on several trees almost with the same result. I think it is a much better way than cutting off the roots. In early summer, say June or July, wind a strong cord around a tree, or single limb, and tie, the tighter the better; and you will be pleased with the result; the next winter or spring the cord may be taken off."

ROOT CULTURE.—Generally speaking, says an agricultural paper, you may estimate a man's farming, both as to methods and results, by the reply to the question, does he grow turnips? If he does, he must have a stock to eat them, and if he feeds a large number of animals he will have considerable manure wherewith to enrich the farm. As you travel through the country, you cannot fail to note that root cellars and the general signs of thrift go hand in hand together. The great work of our farming is manure, and this is an article that, in the majority of cases, must be manufactured on the farm. In the neighborhood of towns and villages manure may be purchased, but it is costly both as regards time and money; time spent in hauling and money paid per load. It is altogether preferable to make the manure in one's own barnyard by keeping all the stock that can be well maintained. The fertility of the land should be maintained under any circumstances. Farming is really profitable only to the extent to which there is gain secured over and above the cost of preserving the strength and productivity of the soil. Any other method of securing apparent profit is delusive. It is drawing on capital; it is disposing of a modicum of the farm itself; it is slowly but surely killing the goose that lays the golden egg. By all means let large root crops be raised, and plenty of stock kept to consume them and transmute them into manure.

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