

FARMERS' COLUMN.

THE POTATO BEETLE.—A letter from Prof. Packard of Salem, Mass., a competent authority, has just been published by the Agricultural Experiment Station, which contains these statements: "The potato bug may be looked for early in June. Its eggs will be found on the under surface of the leaves; they are bright orange-red and quite large. The beetle itself is a roundish insect, half an inch long, has ten black stripes on the back, and is reddish underneath. It is larger than the lady bug, which somewhat resembles it. The grub is thick, fat, and orange-red in color, lives about ten days on the leaves and stems, after which it enters the ground to become a beetle. Thus nearly all the life of the insect is passed on the plant. The offspring of last year's beetles will begin to lay eggs in about fifty days from the time from which itself sprang was deposited. Probably no more than two crops of them will appear in our climate, but each female is capable of producing more than a thousand eggs." The remedies are hand-picking of the mature beetle grubs and the eggs. They should all be burned. Paris green is also largely used. This is a most deadly poison, containing arsenic. It is almost insoluble in water. It may be mixed with plaster, flour or fine dry earth, and dusted on the plants from a sifter or bellows or applied stirred up in water, about a tablespoonful to a pailful, and thrown from a syringe or sprinkled from a watering pot. In any case, great care must be taken not to breathe the dust or handle with naked hands. A number of specimens collected in New York are being analyzed in the laboratory of the station. They range in price from 28 cents per pound (wholesale) to 18 cents, and contain from 10 1/2 to 46 per cent of insoluble adulterations. The arsenic varies from 55 per cent, in the best to 20 per cent, in the lower grades. Some are mixtures of Scheele's green, others are Schweinfurth green. The former, when pure, contains 7 1/2 per cent of arsenious acid and 28 1/2 per cent of copper oxide. The latter should contain 58 per cent of arsenious acid, 31 per cent of copper oxide, and 10 per cent of acetic acid. From the facts it appears that it will be most economical to buy the best. Ask for pure Paris green. It will possibly cost fifty cents per pound. The beetle has appeared in alarming numbers in many parts of Massachusetts.

FEEDING FARM HORSES.—The following very practical directions as to the feeding and keeping of farm horses, are condensed from remarks made during a very interesting discussion upon the management of farm horses, at an annual meeting of the Dalrymple, Scotland Farmer's Society. The author of Mr. Campbell of Dalrymple, was formerly driver of the Marquis of Hastings' coach of Edinburgh, and was acknowledged to be the best whip in Scotland. His ideas upon stable management are therefore worthy of attention. The first thing to be done in the morning Mr. Campbell tells us, "is to try each horse with water, then half a feed of grain or better still, a portion of beans. All the dry straw about the horse to be put up below his manger, then the stable to be thoroughly cleaned out. The horses next to be well cleaned with curry-comb and wisp as far as possible to the brush for that class of horses. When the horses are thoroughly cleaned over, which in all should occupy an hour, give them another feed of oats. Then at dinner time, we shall say one o'clock, the horses to be watered, and a feed of corn and forage put in their rack—racks above the horses head being entirely disapproved of, as it is unnatural for a horse to have his food in that position. When the horse come in at night at 5 or 6 o'clock, each man should pick out his horses' feet at the stable door, then take them in and unharness them; if they have not had water before coming in let them have it now, then each horse to have a small pailful of boiled food. At 8 o'clock the men must again be at the stable, and must strip themselves to give a thorough dressing, be careful with the comb about the tender places, such as behind the forelegs and inside the thighs for fear of scratching the skin. When the men are done, the master's duty is to examine the horses to see that they are properly dressed, and if not, to point it out and have it properly done. This should occupy nearly an hour. Then give another pailful of boiled food to each horse, with hay or straw in the rack again. The bed should then be made down with a little fresh litter over the top. The bed should be thinnest under the horses feet and gradually thicken towards the sides.—The stable then to be swept and shut up for the night.

CUTTING HAY.—Often as the subject of cutting and curing hay has been discussed in the agricultural press it seems to have had very little effect upon the minds of our farmers. A few, perhaps, heed the advice given by those who have paid the most attention to the subject, but the masses still adhere to their old ideas and prejudices, cutting hay just when they get ready, without regard to the grasses or other kinds of plants cultivated for forage. It may be that some of our readers will think this a rather sweeping assertion, but they have only to look round among the farmers in their own neighborhood or into our larger markets to see that it is the truth nevertheless. Our best farmers as well as chemists long since decided, but not until careful investigation, that hay made from grasses or other forage plants, cut before the seed began to mature, was far more nutritious and better liked by stock generally than that which is gathered later; still good early made hay is the exception rather than the rule. It is rare that a ton or more of sweet, bright-looking hay can be found in New York city markets, and we presume that it is about the same in all of our larger cities, which shows that there is something radically wrong in the time of cutting and curing hay throughout the country. The great fault, however, we believe is to be found in the almost general neglect and delay in commencing the hay harvest until it is impossible to make a good article out of the grasses or other plants to be secured for this purpose. Now the amount of nutritive matter lost during the drying of herbage of all kinds is considerable even under the most favorable conditions, but the amount is greatly increased by permitting the plants to mature naturally. Grasses, clovers, and similar plants, when severed from their roots in a green and succulent state, contain a comparatively larger proportion of starch, sugar, and gum, than when cut in a ripening condition, for in the latter much of these valuable properties are converted into wood fibre which is neither nutritious nor digestible. Meadows of mixed grasses require more attention in regard to cutting early than those composed mainly of one species. We have noticed during the past few days meadows composed of red clover, timothy and June grass, and the condition of these were so widely different that it would be impossible to cut the hay at a time to secure either in a proper condition. The June grass was over-ripe and the seed falling, the clover just in bloom and ready for the scythe, but the timothy had scarcely shown a sign of heading out. Now the same variation in the period of maturity of the kinds named may not be as great in all soil as in the one to which we have referred, but we doubt if they should ever be grown together for the purpose of making hay. But whatever mixture is used, or any single species it is always best to cut early, or just when the plants are in bloom in order to make a first-rate quality of hay.—Rural New Yorker.

DR. M'LANE'S Celebrated American WORM SPECIFIC, OR VERMIFUGE.

SYMPTOMS OF WORMS. THE countenance is pale and leaden-colored, with occasional flushes, or a circumscribed spot on one or both cheeks; the eyes become dull; the pupils dilated; an arc semicircle runs along the lower eyelid; the nose is irritated, swells, and sometimes bleeds; a swelling of the upper lip; occasional headache, with humming or throbbing of the ears; an unusual secretion of saliva; slimy or furred tongue; teeth very foul, particularly in the morning; appetite variable, sometimes voracious, with a gnawing sensation of the stomach, at others, entirely gone; fleeting pains in the stomach; occasional nausea and vomiting; violent pains throughout the abdomen; bowels irregular, at times costive; mucus slimy; not unfrequently tinged with red; belly swollen and hard; urine turbid; respiration occasionally difficult, and accompanied by hiccupping; cough sometimes dry and convulsive; uneasy and disturbed sleep, with grinding of the teeth; temper variable, but generally irritable, &c.

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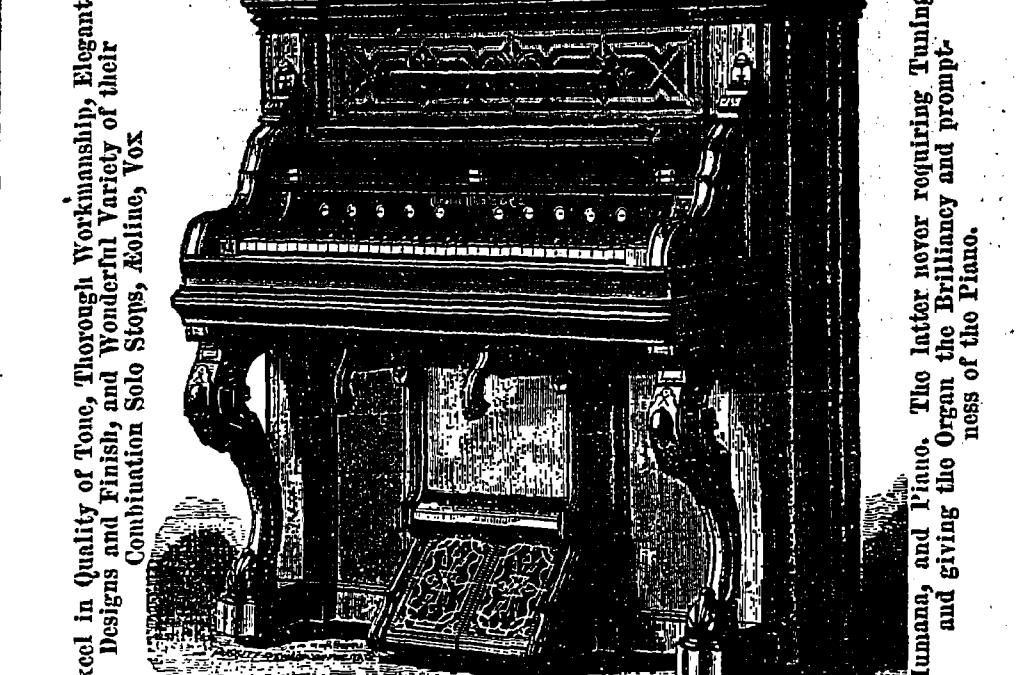


A dressing which is at once agreeable, healthy, and effective for preserving the hair. Faded or gray hair is soon restored to its original color, with the gloss and freshness of youth. Thin hair is thickened, falling hair checked, and baldness often, though not always, cured by its use. Nothing can restore the hair where the follicles are destroyed, or the glands atrophied and decayed. But such as remain can be saved for usefulness by this application. Instead of fouling the hair with a pasty sediment, it will keep it clean and vigorous. Its occasional use will prevent the hair from turning gray or falling off, and consequently prevent baldness. Free from those deleterious substances which make some preparations dangerous, and injurious to the hair, the Vigor can only benefit but not harm it. If wanted merely for a HAIR DRESSING, nothing else can be found so desirable. Containing neither oil nor dye, it does not soil white cambric, and yet lasts long on the hair, giving it a rich, glossy lustre and a grateful perfume.

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ANOTHER REMARKABLE CURE OF EPILEPSY; OR, FALLING FITS, BY HANCO'S EPILEPTIC PILLS. MONTROVIE, TEXAS, June 29th, 1857. TO SIR HANCO:—A person in my employ had been afflicted with Fits or Epilepsy for thirteen years; he had two boxes of your Pills, and he was cured. He had fits several in quick succession, sometimes continuing for two or three days. On several occasions they lasted two or three days, and he was so much afflicted that he would continue for a day or two after the fits ceased. I tried several remedies prescribed by our resident physicians, but without success. Having seen your advertisement, I concluded to try your Pills. I obtained two boxes of your Pills, gave them according to directions, and they effected a permanent cure. The person before you is a stout, healthy man, about 35 years of age, and he has had a fit since he commenced taking your Pills. He has now written to me, and he has recommended them to his friends. He has also recommended them, and in no instance where I have had a chance of hearing from their effect, have they failed to cure. Yours, truly, G. H. FRENCH.

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