

time. Oil of winter green is used as a preservative but by far the best means of preserving the cider is to subject it for a short time to a heat of say 175°, then place it in bottles while hot and cork it air tight. If the air is entirely excluded after the *bacilli* which cause fermentation have been destroyed by heat, and no more are admitted, the cider will remain sweet for an indefinite time and will be found to be a delicious and harmless beverage.

Vinegar is made by placing the apple juice in barrels; not quite filling them, taking out the bung and thus admitting the air to the liquor.

Excellent vinegar is obtained. By these means ill-shaped and partly developed fruit which would not be marketable, provided the wormy or decayed specimens are excluded, can be thus profitably utilised.

FACTS AND FANCIES

It is interesting to remark the curious fancies with regard to vegetation indulged in by our ancestors. The poet Gray, thus alludes to an old custom as to the pea :

As peascods once I plucked, I chanced to see
 One that was closely filled with three times three;
 Which when I cropped, I safely home conveyed,
 And o'er the door the spell in secret laid,
 The latch moved up, when, who should first come in
 But in his proper person Subberkin ?

of which this is the explanation. If the sheller of pease found a pod containing nine, she laid it over the door, and the young man who entered without causing it to roll off would be her future husband. Another custom, in the North of England was, that a disappointed lover by way of consolation was rubbed with pea-straw ; the boys by the girls and *vice versa*. Browne, author of *Britannia's Pastorals* says :

The peascod greene, oft with no little toyle,
 He'd seek for in the fattest, fertil'st soyle,
 And rend it from the stalk to bring it to her,
 And in her bosom for acceptance woove her.

The pea-pod containing ripe pease had to be snatched off the stem quickly, and if the pease were not shaken out, it was considered a good omen. Shakespeare alludes to the same fancy in "As you like it," act 2, scene 4. In olden times to dream of pease was lucky, and the water in which pease were boiled was considered good to remove warts. No doubt the antiquity of the pea and its popularity as an article of diet, have led

to these fanciful ideas as regards their qualities which have a certain charm to the imaginative mind ; but in these utilitarian days they are lost sight of in the service they render as food for man and animals. The origin of most plants can be generally pretty accurately traced, but that of the pea is of such ancient date as to be lost sight of. The improvements effected in the pea by hybridization, selection, and cultivation have kept pace with those of other vegetables, and have placed them in the foremost rank of culinary delicacies of the garden when eaten green, and we all know the use the dried peas are to our Canadian friends who could not exist long without their *soupe aux pois*. Not only are the edible kinds so useful but the flowers of the sweet-pea are very attractive on account of their beauty and fragrance. The sweet-pea has for centuries been a favorite in the flower garden, but it is only of late years that it has received the special care and attention of the florist; and to show how this has been rewarded, at the July exhibition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society one collection was shown containing 90 distinct named varieties, comprising colors varying from pure white to primrose, salmon, rose, crimson, purple, lilac, maroon to nearly black, etc.

A small but brilliant novelty

A most useful and beautiful acquisition to our list of bedding plants is the new dwarf "*Tropolum Vesuvium*" well named from its brilliancy and intensity of orange scarlet color and which was awarded a first-class certificate by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, July 23rd. It is a miniature form of *Tropolum* with dense masses of small flowers and dark green foliage : it's growth is very compact and the pans of specimens in which they were exhibited contained plants not more than four inches high. For dwarf masses of brilliant scarlet, it cannot be surpassed and ribbons planted with this in contrast with the blue lobelia and dwarf allyssum would be very effective.

THE GYPSEY MOTH.

ACNERIA DISPAR.

More than 300 men are now employed in the State of Massachusetts in searching for and destroying the Gypsy Moth, and a few particulars