

## HOME AND FARM.

We conclude our extracts from the pamphlet of the N. S. S. P. C.:

**FISH.**—It has been observed that fish which are instantly killed on being taken from the water are vastly superior, in taste and solidity, to those which are allowed to die, as is the universal custom with us. And why should this not be the case? Why should we make a distinction in this respect between animals that swim and those that fly or run? No one of us would think of eating a beast or bird that had died a natural death. Various modes of killing fish are practised by different people. The Dutch, for example, destroy life by making a slight longitudinal incision under the tail by means of a very sharp instrument.

On the Rhine they kill the salmon by thrusting a steel needle into their heads.

Fish may be easily destroyed by striking them a quick, sharp blow with a small stick on the back of the head, just behind the eyes, or by taking them by the tail and striking the head quickly against any hard substance.

**POISONS AND GASSES.**—We have made no remarks upon the destruction of animal life by means of deadly poisons, as such agents cannot, with safety, be placed in the hands of the unskilled. Neither have we spoken of the use of various gasses as a means of human destruction, such means not being at the disposal of the people generally.

**NOTE.**—If circumstances require the use of poisons, these should be administered only by trusty persons. Small animals may be destroyed by a quarter of a teaspoonful of the Cyanide of Potassium placed on the back part of the tongue. For a large dog a half teaspoonful. The drug must be pure and fresh.

We are in receipt of the *American Garden*, a handsome Floral and Horticultural monthly magazine, (751 Broadway, N. Y.) excellently illustrated, not only with various fruits and flowers, but with examples of laying out of grounds. It contains much interesting matter, amongst others a simple and practical arrangement for the protection of plants from frost, said to be made for about 15 cents. Like some other excellent American publications of this nature, it is absurdly cheap, \$1 per year.

We have before us the "Transactions and Reports" of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association, which ought to be, and probably is, in the hands of every considerable fruit-grower in the Province. The speeches made, both at the meeting and at the Annual Dinner, are full of suggestiveness. As usual, a good proportion of this suggestiveness was embodied in the after-dinner speeches, but those of Professor Macoun, both at the meeting and afterwards, ought to be in the hands of every Canadian. The Professor dwelt emphatically on the possibilities we were throwing away from want of knowledge of the available character in England of our forest woods, and he appears to have been able to enlighten English people as to the inferiority of much of the lumber they use, to what they might obtain if a more extended knowledge were mutual. So suggestive are these speeches that we shall endeavor to find space for a reproduction of considerable portions of them.

In his after dinner speech the Professor commented on the English mode of plowing with two, three, or even four heavy horses, tandem, requiring an additional man to the forward horses, and to the fact that they broke up less than an acre a day.

"I visited," he continued, "some of the great orchards of England, and I asked: 'Is that the way you care for your orchards?' They were poor miserable trees, covered with lichen. The land was rented, and no man will plant trees on another man's land. There are glorious prospects for this Province of Nova Scotia.

The cultivation of a number of fancy varieties of apples will not prove a success; but you should rather aim at those kinds which command the best prices, and, should you find that wheat and barley will not pay, then all you have to do is to stick to what will, viz.: fruit.

Away west of Winnipeg we have a country which, in the near future, will produce all the wheat that England can consume. I suggested that she should put an end to her policy of letting in all other sections of the world to the detriment of her own people, and that we should have free trade among our own Anglo-Saxon race, to the exclusion of foreigners. Five years after the adoption of such a policy the Americans would be tapping at our doors for reciprocal trade. I have attended meetings in Ontario, and I can say that you have brought out as much, if not more, valuable information in your discussions as any society in the Upper Provinces. I feel that the three days which I have spent with you have been more profitable than any three days during the last ten years, and I sincerely hope you will honor me with another invitation at some future day."

This pamphlet, we do not hesitate to say, ought to be in the possession of every fruit-growing farmer in Nova Scotia.

The *Canadian Horticulturist*, monthly, \$1 per annum, (L. Woolverton, Grimsby, Ont.) is an excellent manual. Its colored illustrations are of the very highest class, and its other engravings do not fall behind them, and the view of the "Home of Mr. N. P. Bailey, Harlem, N. Y.," depicts one of the most charming country houses imaginable. Plans for greenhouses "costing less than \$10" for laying out lawns, etc., and other features combine to render the *Canadian Horticulturist* one of the first periodicals of its kind.

Cleanliness in the poultry house is one of the most essential points in successful poultry raising. A large majority of the diseases to which the

feathered race is subject, may be traced directly to a filthy, disordered condition of the poultry house. Filth is the boon companion of lice, and where one is seen the other is sure to be present, and it naturally follows that when filth is rigidly avoided little trouble is encountered with lice.

It is an excellent plan to take a small pail of diluted carbonic acid, and go through the hen house occasionally, scattering this eradicator of vermin everywhere, in the nests, on the floor, over the walls and perches, and, in fact, in every place frequented by the fowls. Not only will this have a most desirable cleansing effect, but it will also tend to purify the atmosphere and exterminate the germs of disease which may invade the house.

We doubt if our farmers pay as much attention to the cultivation of onions as is desirable. So small an area yields a good profit that it is well worth while to take the pains necessary to give that small area the depth of rich soil which is the necessary condition of success and consequent gain. Any farmer who will bring even a quarter of an acre into that state, would find his account in it.

Dr. Twitchell, of the *Maine Farmer*, who is lecturing in New Brunswick on farming says: We are largely dependent upon you for horses. We spend here from \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year among you, besides what we spend in Ontario and Ohio. Horses 15 hands 2 inches high, 1,050 pounds, with good driving qualities, upheaded and good action, are in good demand. Whether they have great speed or not is immaterial. For draft horses the Percherons and Clydes are in good demand. Trotting horses always sell. How can we encourage the breeding of a better class of horses? One of the best means is the holding of annual exhibitions. Not a poor one, but a good one, with liberal premiums, covering all classes. Have races, and control them yourselves. Trotting horses have a right there. If your neighbor can raise a \$5,000 horse is not that a good thing? Every farmer cannot do so, but there are some who have a liking and have an ability for it, and these should be encouraged to buy and breed good stock. But control the races yourselves and keep them free from objectionable features. I know in some sections of Maine trotting races are considered a great sin, but I have seen as much jockeying among the owners of oxen at exhibitions as on the horse track. A trotting horse has as much right on the grounds as a pair of oxen. By these exhibitions, with liberal premiums and open to all classes, you stimulate the breeding of every kind of stock, increase general interest, and good results will follow.

## OUR COSY CORNER.

As skirts have become simpler, basques have become more elaborate, so that the greatest variety may be noticed. Full effects in front are most popular. Bodices are often trimmed with revers and with white vests embroidered in gold or silver. Their materials frequently have a surplus bodice and are worn with much ribbon trimmings.

We have much pleasure in presenting to our readers a few extracts from a lady's magazine, entitled the *Season*, published in New York, subscription price, \$3.50 a year. This magazine is published in 13 different languages. The colored plates are of the finest description:—

Braiding has become a universal mode, for this reason, therefore, the best couturieres employ it with great judgment and discrimination. Large designs are going out, and small patterns of braid and passementerie, executed by hand, are preferred to ornament bodices and polonaises. A braided cloth polonaise looks extremely well over a skirt of cloth, silk, or velvet, yet the motifs of the pattern should be very small, and worked at the corners, below, on the collar, or the revers. There are materials with woven imitations of braids for those ladies who do not wish to work the ornaments of their costumes, and indeed the braiding made now requires much time, for it is of the most different styles. Flat braiding, executed with fine flat Russia braid, is most generally employed, but elaborate designs made with two kinds of braid are the most effective. Braid is also sewn on flat in one part of the design, and edgewise in another. Fine silk cord is likewise used alone, and combined with flat braid. On large figured dress skirts the effect of bands is given, by setting rows of narrow braid running parallel to each other, but not touching.

We have received from Vienna a very novel and good idea for an *autograph tablecloth*, which is certain to find many followers. A piece of dark cloth, any convenient size, olive, fawn color, or dark brown is best, is edged all round with a thick colored silk cord, and ornamented with tassels at its corner according to taste. Then, after providing a good store of colored floss silks, the pattern is made by inviting friends, relatives, and visitors, to write their names wherever they like on the cloth, one here, another there, just as fancy or whim dictates. These autographs are then worked over in colored silk, in chain, stem, or satin stitch. Of course the cloth is not considered finished until the whole surface is filled up with this collection of names going hither and thither, up or down, in every variety of character and color. Such a cloth is highly original, and a very amusing, pretty decoration for sitting, dining, and smoke rooms.

The jersey is still a favorite style of bodice, and the newest styles are very pretty and becoming. A tasteful jersey was shown us, mounted on pointed yoke, spotted with beads sewn on at certain distances, and with cuffs and collar to correspond. The beads almost always match the foundation stuff, but a few are of the same color as the skirt worn, or of a somewhat lighter shade. Useful colors are black, brown, blue, and dark fawn. Plaistons and chemisettes of such in cream, maize, or a contrasting color finish the best styles, on which the upper part is sewn out in tucks to look like a yoke.