Colonial Farmer.

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Correspondence.

For the Colonial Farmer.

RURAL TOPICS.

THE SIZE OF MILK PANS.

Dairymen have of late years used large milk pans, in some cases a single pan being large enough to hold all the milk from 15 or 20 cows. These pans are made by those who furnish dairymen's supplies, and are often advertised in the agricultural papers. When such pans are used, it is best to have a milk-room so constructed that water may be kept around the pans. Mr. Willard, the most experienced man in dairy matters in the United States, says in the *Rural New Yorker*: "We prefer to have a pan of sufficient size to hold the milk of the entire dairy at one milking. Only four pans comprising the set would then be needed. These pans are arranged for running cold water under and about the sides of the milk. If running water from springs cannot be had, the water may be pumped from wells into a tank, and from that conducted into the space under the pans. Some persons use cistern water, the needed quantity from day to day being pumped into a tank, which receives a cake of ice sufficient to cool it and keep the milk in the pans at or below 60°. The waste water, after flowing under the milk, is led back to the cistern, and by this constant circulation is kept sweet and sound. The plan works well, and excellent results in butter-making are obtained."

THE VALUE OF HEN MANURE.

If all the droppings from the roosts by hens be carefully saved in barrels, and every spring and fall this manure be composted with any good soil, or muck from swamps, and so kept a few months, its value for any crop is equal to Peruvian guano, and it may, I think, be estimated at 50 cents per fowl per annum. From 50 hens I save about ten barrels of the pure hen guano during the year. What I save from November to April I compost in the spring with soil. First I spread in a circle soil to the depth of three or four inches. Then I spread hen manure about an inch deep; then I spread another layer of the soil, and then a layer of manure, till the heap is completed, using about four times the bulk of soil that I do of manure, the last layer being soil. The top of this compost heap I make flat to catch the rains, then I cover it with any refuse hay or straw, then place some sticks of wood, or boards, against the covering to keep it in its place, and in two or three months it is ready to use, having become thoroughly incorporated with the soil, but, as the season for planting is then past mostly, I leave the heap till the next spring, when I use it with what I compost in November. Perhaps it would be better to make a compost in March, where the climate will admit, and use the manure for crops planted the last of May or early in June; but I can discover no loss by keeping it till the next season. A gill of this compost in a hill of corn will be equal in effect to a half-shovelful of stable dung.

WESTERN N. Y. FARMERS' CLUB.

At a late meeting of this Club the following points were discussed: One member said that in the dairy districts it generally requires four acres of pasture to each cow kept; but on the soiling system one acre will suffice. Another member had not pastured for several years, and is coming into this practice with other stock. He kept eighteen cows last year, and had only eight acres of pasture. He cked out the pasture with clover, Hungarian grass and sowed corn. One acre of clover for soiling is worth more than three acres for pasture. On rich land the clover springs up very rapidly. In very hot weather he keeps his cows in darkened but well ventilated stables. He feeds malt grains to cows, one half bushel a day winter and summer. This is done to increase the milk. Cows kept in dark stables do much better, as the labor of keeping off the flies is saved. Another member said that he kept 25 head of cows and horses on 20 acres of pasture, with the aid of an acre and a half of sowed corn adjoining the pasture. He drills in his corn in rows 24 inches apart, and cultivates between them.

CORN IN DRILLS.

A writer in the *Country Gentleman* gives his experience in planting corn in drills. He used an Emery corn planter, rows four feet apart, a peck of seed to the acre—but read what he says: "When the corn was large enough to be worked, we put on it a small thirty-tooth square harrow, with a frame made as harrows usually are, but very light, with half-inch teeth which slanted back at an angle of about forty-five degrees. This harrow was used lengthwise of the rows, driving the horse between each two rows, thereby having the heaviest part of the harrow on the land between the rows, and only the outside corners to brush the earth in and near the hills. We went over the piece three times in this manner, with an interval of about a week between each time. The corn by this time was too large to harrow, and it was then cultivated out twice in a row and left to take care of itself without a hoe having been used in the field during the season." The result was a good crop, and at much less expense than to plant by hand to cultivate both ways; and the corn was not injured by the harrow.

POINTS OF A GOOD COW.

Prof. Tanner says: "The udder should be capacious, extending well behind the legs, and also forward under the belly; the coat should be thin, with a soft skin, and show considerable decrease in size after the cow is milked. The teats should be placed well apart from each other and not cramped together, for this indicates a want of sympathy in the udder. The udder may appear large and yet be found fleshy, rather than capacious. Especial attention is desirable to the mellowness of the skin, and more particularly if the animal is poor. The milk vein is a sure indication of the quantity of blood supplied, and for all practical purposes, may be taken as a guide."

VALUE OF FRUIT AS FOOD.

At a convention of fruit growers of Ohio, turalist, said that farmers and others, especially those having families of children, would find great advantage in the matter of hearth by using fruit as a part of every meal at all times of the year, Mr. B. said he had tried this plan for many years with a large family, and knew from experience that nearly all the cases of derangement of health by the use of fruit in summer were attributable to its irregular use. He also believed that a more constant and plentiful use of fruit would be found useful as a preventive of the malarial fevers so so common in the West. Farmers should grow more kinds of summer fruits, so as to have a constant succession for table; more grapes, where they can be grown, and more and better varieties of apples in their orchards.

THE WEIGHT OF CATTLE.

Measure in inches the girth around the breast, just behind the shoulder blade, and the length of the back from the tail to the fore part of the shoulder blade. Multiply the length of the girth (in inches) and divide by 144. If the girth is less than three feet, multiply the quotient by 11; if between three and five feet, multiply by seven; if between five and seven feet, multiply by twenty-three; if between seven and nine feet, multiply by thirty-one. If the animal is lean deduct one-twentieth from the result. Another rule is, take the girth and length th in feet and multiply the product by 336, and the result will be the answer in pounds. The live weight multiplied by 605 gives a near approximation to the weight.

TO KEEP HARNESS IN ORDER.

Take Neats Foot Oil and Ivory Black—the latter well pulverized, or to be made so before using. Mix thoroughly—adding the black until the oil is well colored, or quite black. In cool weather the oil should be warmed somewhat before mixing. With a sponge apply a light coat of the mixture—only what the leather will readily absorb unless the harness is very dry—in which case a heavier coat may be necessary. After the harness is dry—which will be in from two hours to a half or a whole day, depending upon the weather and previous condition of the leather—wash thoroughly with soap suds. In making the suds use good castile soap and cold rain-water. (Warm water should never be used on harness leather.) Apply the suds with a sponge. Rub off with buckskin. This will give your harness a nice, glossy surface, and the leather will retain a good color and continue pliable for months. If it becomes soiled with mud or sweat, an application of soap and water, as above directed, (without oiling,) will be sufficient to give it a bright appearance. Two applications of this oil and black mixture a year (or once every six months) will be sufficient to keep harness, as ordinarily used, in good order.

MOTHERING LAMBS.—A correspondent writes to the *Country Gentleman* from Turkey:—Yesterday I saw a Wallachian give a lamb of twenty days old to the mother of another lamb, which had died the same day, without any trouble. I thought of the trouble I used to have in such cases in America, and I will describe the process, so that it may be of some use to your sheep-raisers:—The Wallachian simply skinned the lamb that was dead, and rubbed the fleshy part of the skin with ash, and sewed it on the back of the lamb which he wanted to give to the foster-mother. The sheep came forward, smelled the lamb, and owned it.

Selections.

SALE OF AYRSHIRE STOCK.—Nathaniel Hubbard, Esq., of Burton, Sunbury Co., has purchased from J. D. M. Kentor, Esq., of Hammond River, K. C., his yearling bull "Lochiel." We hope his introduction into that locality, will help to disseminate the useful qualities of Ayrshire cattle.

Improve Your Live Stock.

Even on a well-managed farm there is generally room for improvement in the live stock. Horses are sometimes kept until they are old and weak, unable to perform the necessary labor and unfit for sale. Cows are sometimes kept until they are entirely unfit for dairy or for breeding, but they consume as much provender as those which are in their prime and able to yield a large supply of milk and strong, healthy calves. A great improvement might be made in a flock of sheep by culling out from it, at least once a year, all the ewes that produce light fleeces or an inferior staple of wool and supplying their places with others of superior quality in every way. A great improvement may be made in swine by getting rid of unthrifty animals and introducing the best breeds which possess the desirable properties of fattening readily, coming to maturity at an early age and paying well for the food they eat.

SELLING EGGS BY WEIGHT.—What is there to encourage farmers or their wives to keep large, expensive fowls for which they pay a high price, and produce large eggs outside of home use, if fowls are kept principally for eggs? A dozen is a dozen, no matter how large or small; there is no justice in selling eggs by the dozen; the consumer will answer "no justice," and well they may when they see the difference in size. Now, representatives are sent from every town in the State to meet at the Capital to make and amend laws; they make bird laws, fish laws, dog laws, and all other laws; so many pounds of grain and vegetables to a bushel, and butter and cheese is sold by the pound; we have the laws and can read them at leisure, but we find no law to fix the price of eggs only the law of custom, by the dozen. Thousands of hens are kept in Vermont of all breeds and sizes. Let the women in Vermont raise a united cry for justice, buy and sell eggs by the pound.—*Mrs. L. F., in Vermont Farmer.*

Nests for Fowls.

The instinct of the fowl is the best guide. In our boyhood we used to wonder why it was that a hen which hid her nest under a barn or in a fence corner would—if she escaped the attack of rats—come off triumphant with a full clutch of chicks, while another set over so carefully in a nicely made nest box would hatch but a small percentage of her eggs. The reason, as the hen very well knew, was that the damp ground was a powerful auxiliary in the matter. To secure all this advantage it is only necessary to place damp earth in the bottom of the nest box. For convenience it is better to mould it into a concave form; not too much so that the eggs will all roll into the bottom. This should then be lined with soft material—straw cut moderately short, or best of all, lawn mowings which were carefully cured when first cut. Sprinkle liberally with sulphur to keep out vermin and do not give a greater number of eggs than the hen can completely cover.

Kerosene Horse Liniment.

A correspondent sends the following: "It is not as generally known as it ought to be that kerosene oil is one of the very best remedies for strains, sprains or bruises that can be applied to the flesh of beasts. I know an instance in which a young colt got cast on its back in a manger; when taken out it was utterly unable to stand or move its hind limbs, and so continued for some time, when two or three applications of the oil, twelve hours between, completely restored it. This and similar facts led me, when studying drugs several years ago, to concoct the following, which I named kerosene liniment: Kerosene oil, one ounce; aromatic spirits ammonia, three drachms; tint. arnica, two drachms; ol. origanum, two drachms; ol. menthe, twenty drops; chloroform, one drachm; spirits camphor, two drachms. This article is incomparable superior to anything of its kind for bruises, soreness of the muscles from any cause, or nervous pains. Its value, however, will best be known by its use. Many a prescription has been sold for $50, which compared with this, was not worth the paper it was written on. Equally good for beasts or man."—*Exchange.*

A New Food for Horses.

A new kind of mash for horses is now coming into use. It is thus described by the *California Farmer*: It is composed of 2 quarts of oats, 1 of brand and half a pint of flax seed. The oats are first placed in the stable bucket, over which is placed the linseed, add boiling water, then the bran, covering the mixture with an old rug and allowing it thus to rest for five hours; then stir the mass up well. The bran absorbs, while retaining the vapor, and the linseed binds the oats and bran together; a greater quantity of flax seed would make the preparation too oily and less relished. One feed per day is sufficient; it is easily digested; and is especially adapted to young animals, adding to their volume rather than to their height, giving substance to the frame. Prof. Sanson reminds us not to overlook foor in connection with amelioration of stock. He considers oats, so generally given to sheep, as objectionable and approaching the unprofitable; rams generally received 1 pound of oats daily; ewes half the quantity. Oats forming an exciting food, are especially suited rams during the season they are to serve, but for hastening the development of young sheep, they only build up the bones, not the flesh.

SLACK LIME FOR POTATO DISEASE.—Mr. T. R. Grant, of Manor Vaughan, Letterkenny, thus relates, in the *Irish Farmer*, his experience of the use of slacked lime in correcting the potato disease:—"I collected about five tons, in fine sunny weather, and stored in a triangular pile, three feet wide and eighteen inches high, and riddled dry lime through them in storing, at the rate of about one bushel of lime to every three cwt of potatoes. The lime being in a state of fine dust, trickled throught every crevice in the pile, and when this has been done the whole was thatched over with straw to the depth of six inches, and roped down so as to exclude rain. On examining the pile after a space of two months, it was found that the potatoes were in a sound and fit condition to be eaten by cattle, horses, etc. The skin was quite dry, and wherever abrasions had been made, the acrid moisture, secreted from the effects of the disease, was absorbed, and that was before a moist black patch had now become quite dry and white; and I believe that had it been convenient to keep the whole till next spring, they would have remained in the same state of preservation. At all events the potatoes in question were all preserved in a sound state; and as of late years farmers have such large quantities going to waste, which at the season of lifting cannot be preserved til consumed by pigs, etc., I only wish some of your readers may find it agreeable to try this trifling experiment for themselves."

SUNDAY DINNER QUICKLY PREPARED.—"I've had it on my mind for several weeks to write you something about Sunday dinners. You know when there is a family of five or six persons, more or less, and all want to go to the morning service, and stay to Sunday School, their appetites are pretty well sharpened by the time they get home, especially if there is a ride of two or three miles. I have experimented in various ways that we may have our dinner as soon as possible after getting home, or each one begins to help himself, which causes much confusion and spoils the meal. I find that by leaving the tea-kettle on the stove, and filled, with a little fire, the water is in a condition to boil quickly, and mush is soon prepared. In cold weather nothing is better than oyster soup, which requires but a few minutes cooking. A good meal is quickly prepared by having a chicken made ready overnight by dressing and stuffing, and then it is ready to put into the oven when the family sit down to breakfast. It requires little care, and is nicely browned by church-time, and keeps warm in the oven until wanted for dinner. I find it a great help to have potatoes ready to warm over. Often meat is boiled or roasted on Saturday, which relishes well cold. A rice pudding, made without eggs, and left in the oven, is nice with sugar and cream." It is easy by taking thought, especially a day or two before, to so provide that Sunday shall be not only to the family, but to the help a "day of rest."—*American Agriculturist.*

HOW TO ACT WHEN A DRESS IS IN FLAMES.—It may not be inappropriate to give a few hints as to the best method of extinguishing the flames, when a woman's or child's dress has unfortunately caught fire. If the sufferer has presence of mind enough to throw herself on the ground and roll over and over again until the bystanders can envelop her in some thick and non-inflammable covering, her chances of escape from serious injury will be much increased; but, unfortunately, the terror of the moment ordinarily overcomes every other feeling, and the sufferer rushes into the open air—the very worst thing she could do. The first thing for a bystander to do is to provide himself with some non-inflammable article with which to envelop the patient, and a coat or cloak—or, better, a table cloth or drugget—will answer the purpose. Throwing this around the sufferer, he should, if possible, lay her on the ground and then rapidly cover over and beat out all the fire, keeping on the covering until every spark is extinguished. To attempt to extinguish fire by water is useless, unless the whole body of flame can be put out at one blow; and for one lightly-clad female to attempt to succour another when other persons are at hand is simply to imperil two lives instead of one. In the case of a house on fire, it is to be remembered that death is more the result of suffocation from smoke than from contact with flame, and every effort should be made to reach the open air by crawling along the floor (where there is usually breathing space) so as to reach a window, or if necessary, by enveloping the head in a thick shawl to exclude the smoke while making a rush along a passage or down a staircase.

The Loss of Manures.

Notwithstanding the universal outcry among farmers in the older States about the want of manure, yet how often is it true that from one-half to three-fourths of the value of animal excrements, solid and liquid, are lost or nearly so. Take a barn without a cellar, for example, where the live stock are stabled during the winter. In such barns over New England—and there are many, good barn cellars being, doubtless, the exception—the liquid excrements are lost, and the solid excrements are usually thrown out of stable windows and fall directly under the droppings of the eaves of the barn, thus washing out, it is not unreasonable to suppose one-half of the soluble properties of the remaining portion of the fertilizing elements of the manure heap, leaving one-fourth of the stable droppings to be directly used in manuring the cultivated grounds of the farm. Experience and observation have taught us this lesson. Having been accustomed to using barns without cellars, we found, after building a barn with a cellar, that the value of the manure from the live stock of the farm was increased more than threefold the first year after using it as compared with the preceding year, with the same number of cattle, horses and hogs. If farmers would heed these suggestions and put them into practice, there would be less complaint about the deficiency of Nature. By employing their stable manure as fresh as possible, they would still further increase its value, and, as the result, harvest much more bountiful crops of grass, cereals, tubers, roots and vegetables. This increase of seventy-five per cent. of dung might, of itself, make the difference between farming at a profit or loss. Will farmers take care and stop this waste of manure so common over New England?—*American Cultivator.*

Why Horses Eat Dirt.

It is a very common habit with horses, when turned out of close stables, to lick up dirt in their pathway, and swallow it with apparent relish. The habit is generally an indication of acidity in the stomach, which may be corrected by improving the digestive functions, and which the instinct of the animal endeavours to correct by the alkaline quality certain earths afford. Horses are at a special disadvantage in the matter of stomach complaints, inasmuch as they cannot rid themselves by vomiting anything that disagrees with them, besides being unable to belch up accumulated gases. Then, again, the stomach is much too small to allow of heavy feeding or the formation of much gas without injurious over-distention; hence, of all domestic animals, the solipeds should be fed with the greatest care and judgment. Like human beings, they have their periods of acidity or heartburn, and having no opportunity of taking soda or magnetia, they lick the lime from the walls or the earth in their pathway. For temporary relief, a piece of chalk may be kept in the manger, but we should seek to remove the cause by giving a better tone to the stomach. Feed sound hay in moderate quantities and at regular intervals, and don't drive or work hard soon after each meal, lest digestion should be impaired. Give a few carrots, turnips or other roots, if available; water regularly, and never just after a meal, and put an ounce of common salt in the feed or water daily. Any existing weakness should be corrected by a course of tonics, such as oxide of iron, 2 ounces; powdered nux vomica 1½ drachms; powdered fennell seed, 2 ounces; mix and divide into 8 powders. These should be given, one in the morning and one at night. The habit is sometimes caused by a deficiency of mineral matters in the food grown on very poor soils, but this may be corrected by a similar treatment.—*New York Tribune.*

The Jersey Cattle.

The cattle known indiscriminately as Jersey and Alderney cattle are the same. The correct name for them is Jersey cattle. These cattle have sometimes been named the "crumple-horned," but they are now generally known by the name of "Jersey." One of the breeders who had a good deal to do with the improvement of this breed, says they are miscalled Alderney, and that the true name is Jersey. It is stated by Col. L. Conteur, that the cattle of the island of Alderney were improved by the Jersey, which had been more carefully selected. The Channel Islands, Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark, are the native home of these cattle; and they are said to have been originally brought from the province of Normandy, in France. An original Jersey was very far from being a handsome animal. Its redeeming points were its soft eyes, fine head, its spotted, fawn-like color, its gaily crumpled horns and its capacious udder; but it was ewe-necked, hollow-backed, high-shoulder-ed, flat-ribbed, steep-rumped and cat-hammed. These bad points, however, have been bred out, and the Jersey is now straight, full, deep, and with considerable breadth and medium size. They are regarded with favor on account of their rich milk, and the quality of butter they will produce. In fact, the Jersey or Guernsey farmer regards the butter-making property as most important, because it is from it, on account of the excellent color and flavor, that he derives his high prices and his chief revenue. Within the past twenty years these cattle have materially increased in size, and they are noted for fattening with great facility when they are fed for that purpose. Beyond their value in the dairy they have been little used as a profitable cattle, either to cross with or to keep as stock, where beef was the object. As a breed that furnishes a class of cows adapted for families, and as pets in the household of suburban residents of cities, they have become favorites, and hence we see them largely bred in New England, New Jersey, and in some parts of New York.—*Michigan Farmer.*

Economic and Medical Aspects of the use of Milk.

It may appear a very simple cause to produce such large hygienic results, but probably there is no more important agent in determing the health of a district than milk. By no other food is the stamina of a population so affected in the early years of childhood, and during either infantile or adult sickness its abundance and purity are clearly ascertainable by consulting the mortality returns. This was very forcibly brought out by Dr. Davidson of Seaton Delaval, in his evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, appointed a few years ago, to enquire into the health of the mining districts. He affirmed that, in his opinion, on slight share of the dreadful infant mortality in these places was due to the lack of fatty foods—among these, as far as young children are concerned, milk holds a place which can be supplied by no other single aliment with which physiologists are acquainted. Of the forty-five children's deaths in every hundred, occuring annually at a colliery village, a large proportion might be prevented by a milk diet. Fed upon milk, either in its simplest form, or taken with soaked bread, or oatmeal, a child's life can not only be often preserved when illness has actually laid hold upon it, but its constitution may be made, humanly speaking, impervious to disease. In other words, sloppy foods, coffee and tea, with the indigestible solids inconsiderate parents give their children to eat, all predispose infants to infection from any epidemic lurking about the locality. A moderately healthy constitution will often throw off an attack of illness under which a weaker physique may succumb, perhaps never to recover—as the highest aim of medical science should be not so much to cure as prevent illness, the value of a more perfect knowledge of the advantages resulting from milk nutrition cannot be too widely known. The clear and striking testimony of the resident doctors in the Backworth district, where colliery cow keeping is on a very large and efficient plan, is conclusive on this point, and the healthy looks of the infant population when contrasted with the children of of other mining neighbourhoods, affords ocular evidence of the truth of the the milk nutrition theory.

GOLD FRAMES.

The frame to receive the sash should be placed upon a level spot in the garden and the soil over which the frame stands should be rich garden mould. This cannot be used in the spring quite as early as the hot bed, but quite early enough to supply the demands of an ordinary family. The true way for those who are anxious to procure very early plants and who have no hot bed to depend upon, is to put their seeds into small boxes or pans and place the same under and around the kitchen stove or in the windows in a warm room, at the same keep keep a sharp lookout that they are removed from the windows in case of a very cold night. An ordinary milk can is sufficiently large to give a single family all the plants of early cabbage, tomatoes, and lettuce that they will require. As soon as the sharp frosty nights of April have passed, and the plants have taken on their third leaf, they should be transplanted with care into the frame. Although the plants are small, if the work be dextrously performed, and care taken to shade them from the direct rays of the sun for a few days, they will come forward with great rapidity.

Tomatoes, to be a success, should be transplanted three times: In transplanting the second time each plant should be put into one of the smallest sized flower pots. About the first of June in this latitude they can be transplanted from the pots into the open ground without disturbing the roots in the least. In the absence of the flower pots, transplant to another section of the frame, place them two or three inches apart so that when they were transplanted to the open ground a ball of fresh earth can be removed with the plant

I have utilize old worn-out fruit boxes, pints and quarts, with the bottoms knocked out, and they have answered every purpose and there no money out for pots. The object in transplanting so many times, is to increase the number of fibrous roots and make the plans stocky. By observing the above suggestions the most obscure farmer can have his table supplied with the early vegetables of the season. All that is necessary is a little painstaking.

The cold frame is very successfully used in protecting and keeping through the winter the plants of late sown luttuce and cabbage. About the first of November I transplanted the self-sown luttuce into my cold frame. If the conditions are all right the plants will take root before the heavy frosts of winter comes on. The sash is to be left on through the winter, taking care to give them a good airing every warm pleasant day during the winter months. This is the only way that I have ever succeeded in keeping fall plants through the winter.—*Cor. Michigan Farmer.*

The Roman Cart-Horse.

ALICE A. BARTLETT, in "Old and New," gives the following description of a class of horses to be seen in Rome:

We can look out of our window at almost any hour of the day, and see the other sight that I find so well worth while—the horses in the wine-carts. They come in over the Campagna many miles, and yet who ever saw one of them look tired? In the midst of his dangling red and yellow tossels, with the great stiff pompon of turkey's feathers in his head, and behind him a tall cart, with its gay, lopsided half-tent for the driver, there stands a horse worthy of the imperial Roman breed from which he springs.

He is perfectly classic, perfectly unlike any other horse—black as night, hog-maned, clean-limed, close-coated. His head is the head one sees on ancient bas-reliefs; the eye rather sunken, but full of life and knowledge. His neck is thick and high above the shoulders, well set off, too, by the immense pointed collar. In short, he is the horse that used to come in over the Appian Way in the triumphs of the emperors.

You must come to Rome to see him, moreover, you must seek for him between the shafts of the country wine-carts. If the one you pick out is not the blackest black, look further, for he is not of the pure breed. If you can see one superfluous ounce of flesh on him, or one inharmonious line, if he does not look hard and sound all over,—you have not found my horse.

Yes, on the whole he is much, much nicer than any coach that ever rolled and the Pope cannot take him away from us; for I warrant he is patriotic, and remembers the old glories of Rome, as does his shaggy-breeched driver too, in his inferior, husband way; and between them they would make a good fight of it. The black Roman coach-horses are fine, and perhaps more attractive to an uneducated eye (for you will have to be a little bit of a connoisseur to see the beauty of my horse); but they are slow and dull and pompous, and look flabby and unfinished. One quite despises them. My horse exacts respect, a well as admiration. He is intellectual, experienced, historic. One cannot imagine him in a circus. Nothing could ever make him look ridiculous.

Please do not think of him as large. He is not in the least like a dray horse, or a Percheron. Strong as he is, he is spare. There is no waste of material, no piling on of flesh. He will seldom weigh over a thousand or eleven hundred pounds; but I think I would trust him to keep on pulling long after your mere lummoxes had fallen in their shafts.

The Spring Work.

Everywhere, at this season, intense activity prevails among the gardeners, great and small. Busy men and boys are at work, even before daylight, in the greenhouses, changing little tender shoots from forcing beds to thumb-pots, transferring plants of larger growth from thumb pots to more capacious ones; selecting out those suitable for immediate marketing; clipping flowers from the stock plants for the bouquet-makers; watering, pruning, dibbling, tying up, and doing a thousand other little things seemingly of slight importance, but each requiring deftness and care, for in this business success can never be attained by a half-way, slip-shod style of doing even the smallest things. New cuttings have to be bedded, new seeds sown, new bulbs started, slowly growing plants forced, and all this without interfering with or permitting a diminution of the resources of what is practically the harvest season. This work of plant growing possesses in itself a peculiar charm for any lover of nature.

In some plants there appears to be a riotous profusion of vitality, so that re-production is almost absurdly easy. Take the begonias, for instance. The gardener will snip one of their broad leaves into a dozen pieces, merely taking care to cut each so that it has a sharp point at the junction of its veins. These points he thrusts into deep sand. In a few days each fragment will have thrown out roots. A few days more and branches will appear, with new leaves upon them. The new plants are then formed and perfect, ready for potting. Perhaps he does not even trouble himself to thrust the points into the sand, but merely scatters the shreds upon its surface. Even then the chances are that most of them will grow. If a whole leaf is laid upon damp sand, it will certainly start a new plant of rapid growth. There are numbers of other plants which have this peculiarity, but none in a greater degree.

As a rule, all soft-wooded plants, such as verbenas and geraniums, are propagated either by seed or cuttings, but the latter is almost universally employed; as most speedy and certain. The little slips very quickly throw out rootlets in damp sand wherein they are bedded, and it not unfrequently happens that where the cutting has been a flowering shoot, the blossoms will bloom out as strong and bright as if still upon the parent stem. Mignonette and pansies are grown from the seed exclusively. Roses are propagated by cuttings. In France and England there are rose growers who have a passion for the production of new varieties, which they effect by planting seed, re-producing by cuttings afterward any choice varieties which they may discover. That is, however, too slow a business for our American gardeners, and is consequently not carried on at all in this country. New varieties of geraniums are also produced from seed, the freaks of nature thus encourage developing endless variations in the flowers. Nine out of ten plants which take root with difficulty from "slips," or cuttings, afford by their seed a ready means of increase. The centaureas, cinerarias, primulas, and, in fact, hundreds of other valued plants, are thus best propagated. But to grow these plants successfully from the seed, the skill and care of the practised floriculturist is necessary. Nice conditions have to be preserved. The soil in which the seeds are sown must be of exactly a certain composition of ingredients or failure will be the result. At precisely the proper point the little plant must be reset, and after a time potted and even repotted. It is a venturesome, weary thing for the amateur gardener to grow his plants from the seed, doing all these things, measuring the due proportions of moisture, warmth, and sunshine that each species requires, and maintaining this watchfulness for months at the very season when it is most difficult. Clearly, his best plan is to buy his plants already potted from the growers, and he will find quite enough to do even then to keep them in as healthful condition as he receives them and to force them to a natural development of foliage and bloom.