

VICK'S ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE for December, just received, is unusually interesting. Besides the usual beautiful colored plate, which in this issue is a group of double Dahlias, there are forty pages of just such reading as those interested in flowers and gardening generally will enjoy. Among the articles of special interest we may name "A Californian Outing," "Grafting the Grape," "Azalea and Cape Jasmine," "Irrigation," "Pruning Roses," "Culture of Celery," and a large number of smaller articles. Besides these, the department of "Our Young People" has a beautiful poem by Margaret Eyeringe, and an illustrated poem, "King Frost," by Mrs. Whittemore. For the long winter evenings we can conceive of no more profitable reading for those who desire to gain knowledge in the culture of flowers, and indeed, everything pertaining to the garden. It may be summed up as being "a compendium of useful and valuable information." The inducements offered to subscribers of VICK'S MAGAZINE for clubbing with other popular first-class periodicals, are astonishing.

#### Silos and Ensilage in England.

Silos are becoming more and more popular in England every year. They are now to be found in almost every part of the British Isles, and are not only more numerous than ever before, but generally larger in size, most of the old experimenters having considerably extended their operations. The root crop in England is often uncertain, resulting in heavy losses, and British farmers are directing their attention to ensilage, in which they are sanguine of finding a partial remedy in this regard.

The tests made last year, it is true, did not in all cases prove satisfactory; but they went far toward strengthening the faith of those engaged in ensilage experiments, and the old experimenters have returned to their work with renewed vigor, while many who have hitherto been skeptical are identifying themselves with the movement. The results of the present year will, therefore, be awaited with considerable interest, and decide to a great extent the benefit which farmers may expect to derive from the silo. The difficulties involved in applying adequate pressure to the silage, says the North British Agriculturist, if not entirely, have at least in some measure been overcome. Various modes of weighting have been recently invented, but that designed by Messrs. Reynolds & Co., London, seems to give the best satisfaction. The pressure is steady and equal, and much saving of labor is effected—no dead weights being used, doing away with the constant and costly handling of them. Although it has not been extensively tested, this method has been adopted at Brightlingsea, where one of the largest silos ever constructed in England is now in operation, and has so far proved successful.

The Agriculturist further says that the success of the ensilage system would enable farmers to turn to good account such cereal crops as are rendered useless for malting, milling or grinding, by unseasonable weather during harvest, as well as those which are not likely to mature, as they can be put into the silo wet or dry. (1) Fodder ensiled in a saturated condition, it has been conclusively proved, is equally as good when taken out as that filled in a dry state. In Scotland, tares, meadow and other grass are being used for fodder, and in England some extensive tests are being made in the pre-

servation of maize. The Agriculturist summarizes Mr. Wood's observations at Merton with regard to maize, as follows:

He found that one acre of maize cut green weighed 28 tons, and produced 26 tons of ensilage. Its value was £1.6s. 8d. per ton, being one third the value of hay at £4 per ton, or £34 13s. 4d. in the aggregate. From this is to be deducted rent and tithe, cost of cultivation, manure, seed, cutting, carting, chaffing, filling silo, and all other expenses, including interest on cost of barn silo, amounting to £14 7s. 10d., which made the net value of the ensilage maize £20 9s. 6d. per acre. In regard to grass, he discovered that one acre produced 12½ tons, from which 12 tons of ensilage was obtained. The value of this ensilage was 26s. 8d. per ton, or £16 in all, which, by deducting the expenses, amounting to £5 4s. 9d., was reduced to a net value of £10 15s. 3d.

The Brightlingsea silos are the most extensive in England. Every farm on Mr. Bateman's estate is supplied with ensilage accommodation, nine silos of various sizes being in working order. Three of these formed together have capacity for 444 tons of ensilage. They stand in a row, the length of which is 64 feet, and are built of concrete. They are 22½ feet wide and 20 feet deep, and are built in the side of a bank. The filling side stands but 6 feet above ground, while the emptying side is 17 feet above and only 2 feet below ground. Carts are enabled to draw up to the filling side and discharge into it from the top. The cost of this 444-ton silo was £300.

#### CHEAP FARMS

NEAR MARQUIS

The State of Michigan has more than 4,500 miles of railroad and 1,600 miles of Lake transportation, schools and churches in every county, public buildings all paid for, and no debt. Its soil and climate combine to produce large crops, and it is the best fruit state in the Northwest. Several million acres of unoccupied and fertile lands are yet in the market at low prices. The State has issued a PAMPHLET containing a map, also descriptions of the soil, crops and general resources, which may be had free of charge by writing to the COMM'R OF IMMIGRATION, DETROIT, MICH.

#### COMPLIMENTARY NOTICE.

Of all the publications of nurserymen, there is no other that can be compared with *Lovett's Guide to Fruit Culture*. It is really a valuable work on Horticulture giving, as it does, full instructions for planting, pruning, culture and management of fruits of all kinds, and impartial descriptions of all worthy varieties. It is a book of over 70 pages, with an illuminated cover, elegantly printed and embellished with hundreds of engravings and several colored plates true to nature. Everybody at all interested in fruit culture should send to J. T. Lovett, Little Silver, New Jersey, and get a copy. See advertisement in this number.

\$1.00 FOR 50 CENTS.

Any reader of this paper who will send 50 one-cent stamps to the AMERICAN RURAL HOME, Rochester, N. Y., before March 1st, 1885, will receive that handsome paper, postage free, until January 1st, 1886. The RURAL is a large eight-page, forty column, WEEKLY paper, now in its fifteenth year, and the cheapest farm journal in the world. The price is one dollar a year in advance, but the above offer of fifty cents in postage stamps will be accepted if sent in before March 1st, 1885. Send for sample copy, and see what a bargain is offered.

(1) Most useful in all late districts in our province, many acres of late-sown oats are hardly worth threshing. A. R. J. F.