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Wm. McDougall, Editor.

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USE YOUR JUDGMENT.—Men to whom agricultural papers are new often object to them, that they contain things which are not true; or, that Mr. so and so followed some prescription found in such a journal, and came out badly with his experiment.

Let such a man ask himself what proportion of the whole matter found in *any newspaper* is true. Here are two papers on opposite sides in politics, contradicting each other, through the whole length of their columns. Which of these is right?

The fact is, that pure and absolute truth is not to be looked for in the present-imperfect condition of the human mind, in any mortal production. To suppose that it is so, is to make men not only universally honest, but infallible.

Every man, who either relates a story, or gives an opinion, either in conversation or writing, mixes up with the absolute and ascertained facts in the case, certain inferences of his own, which he states in the same breath, and without any indications that they are inferences; and though they may appear to him entirely legitimate, they are liable to be wrong. Hence, on the part of the hearer there is requisite a use of judgment to sift and settle to what is right or wrong in the story. Nothing is therefore to be swallowed whole. Make use of your judgment.—*Prairie Farmer.*

STEEP FOR SEEDS.—We are requested to republish a steep for seeds which appeared in the *Cultivator* last fall from the *Albany Cultivator*. The following is the substance of the article.—Caution is necessary in trying steeps of powerful chemical substances.

“Soak garden seeds four hours in a solution of chloride of lime, to one gallon of water.” The writer observes that seeds which were soaked thus, came up some days sooner than those which were not soaked, and that the plants kept the lead through the season. One fourth of an ounce of chloride of lime to a gallon of water.

On the 10th of May, 1845, I put cucumber, muskmelons, beet, summer savory and radish seeds, and corn, beans and peas into the solution let them soak for two hours, and planted immediately. Twenty-four hours after planting, I dug up some of the corn and peas, and found that their roots were from one to one and a half inches in length. In forty-eight hours the roots were three to four inches, and the spire one to one and a half in length. The precise day that they broke the ground I now forget.—My cucumbers and melons came up quick and well, and for the first time in my life. My beets were up before any weeds were started. Two or three of my neighbors have tried the experiment this year with the like good results.—*Boston Cultivator.*

FROST.—The following simple and easy method of securing fruit trees from the effects of frost, we have seen highly recommended. Take a thick rope and entwine it among the branches of a fruit tree in blossom, the end of which should be directed downward, so as to terminate in a pail of water placed at the root of the tree; should a slight frost take place during the night-time, it will not in the smallest degree affect the tree, while the surface of the pail which receives the rope will be covered with a thin ice; though water placed in another pail by the side of it, by the way of experiment, may not, from the slightness of the frost, have any ice on it at all.—In this case the rope aids the evaporation of the water, and thereby cools it down to the freezing point.

CHARCOAL BEDS FOR MELONS.—We would say to our farming friends, if you have been burning charcoal during the past winter, be sure you fence up the site of your coal pits, as vine patches for cucumbers, squashes and melons. In these situations the insects are pretty much burned out of the soil, body, eggs, and all, and they will not eat up your vines as soon as these come out of the ground. The annihilation of worms and insects will enable your vines to get a start before flies and bugs will be much abroad; the coal itself, furnishes one of the greatest constituents of vegetable existence. If, you have no such patches as we have referred to, a few loads of charcoal dust might be purchased from the nearest blacksmith's shop, or foundry, and used with profit in this culture.

TO CURE GAPS IN CHICKENS.—Steep lobelia and red pepper in hot, not boiling water, and mix the food with this liquor as strong as they will eat it, until the chickens *gape* “for certain.”

Laugh at this prescription, and call it “*Thompsonian*” if you will, but try it. It is both a preventive and a remedy. We tried it to see if it would kill some hopeless chickens, but they would live in spite of it, and now we have no trouble with this disease. T.

Jefferson Co., O., 1848.

Remarks.—The foregoing remedy is easily tried, and if it should indeed prove an effectual remedy for this formidable disease, the knowledge of it will prove worth many times the cost of our paper to thousands of farmers and housewives in our land.

We hope some of our readers will inform us of the results of their experiments with it.—*Ohio Cult.*

CAMWOOD.—For five yards of cloth take one lb. of camwood, one oz. of vitriol, and one oz. of coppers. Put three pail-fuls of soft water into a kettle and let it boil—put it in the camwood and the cloth (the cloth having been wet,) let it remain two hours with frequent airing, then take it out and air thoroughly, add the vitriol and again put in the cloth, keep it rolling for three quarters of an hour, after which add the coppers and continue stirring for half an hour. Rinse in cold water.—*Id.*

TO DRESS RICE.—A lady recommends the following:—“Soak the rice in cold salt and water for seven hours; have ready a stew pan with boiling water, throw in the rice and let it boil briskly for ten minutes, then pour it in and then serve. The grains are double the usual size, and quite distinct from each other.”

HORTICULTURE.—There is probably no employment or recreation which has a stronger tendency to purify the heart, improve the taste, or strengthen the physical constitution, than a love of horticulture. If a man would truly enjoy his garden, take delight in his flowers, and appreciate his fruits, he must be his own gardener, prune his own trees, gravel his own walks, and cultivate his soil.

VALUABLE RECEIPTS FOR COLORING.—**ORANGE.**—For one lb. of cloth take two oz. of annatto, two oz. of saleratus and two and a half gallons of water. Boil the ingredients in brass one hour. Wet the cloth, then drain it well, put it in the dye and let it remain one hour, keeping the dye at nearly a boiling heat, drain and rinse.

FRECKLE WASH.—White sugar, lemon juice, and borax, powdered; rub well together, and put into glass phials.