

pinion. Clean the soil, while conducive to most use a total of In seasons of highly culti- the scourge.

AND RIVERS.

place in recent treatment of We at to the subject ar supplies and find forests and occupied the at- Vienna, which persons. The nental Europe ates were repel- and the new places falling off. of the Ohio, Elbe. It is this decrease in ivers is closely ne of the ad- contemporary the Congress,

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Jan., 1874

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

5

for the surplus water. If the earth is pressed firmly about the roots the plant will receive all the moisture it requires before this escape is made. A space of about a quarter or a half an inch should be left between the surface of the soil and the rim of the pot or box, that the water may not wash the earth over the edges to the floor or into the saucers, but be allowed to stand and work gradually down.

Moderately warm water seems most agreeable to these adopted children of ours, and surely they thrive best when indulged in this respect.

Much that is erroneous has been said of the danger of watering house plants too freely; but these suffer more frequently from the opposite mistake. The earthen pots in general use are very porous, and evaporation through them takes place speedily in our warm, dry rooms. The earth should never be allowed to become dust dry; neither should the water stand all day in pools about the roots and lower stems, and, thus standing, become sour and disagreeable.

Every flower pot should stand on a saucer or plate, and there should be a hole in the bottom of the pot, so that the dry soil may absorb water if it is poured on the plate. When the soil will absorb no more, the water in the saucer should be turned out.—N. Y. Herald.

PLANTS FOR THE WINDOW.

The selection of plants for window vases depends essentially upon which side is to be the point of view. If chiefly from the outside large leaves and large colors show best, such as bulb or well grown foliage plants, as begonias, keep under glass shades to preserve the necessary air moisture with the warmth they require. But if the vase is seen chiefly from the inside, the case is very different. Colors will not show well again. The light, but neatness of outline and grace of the light, of spray will show with great wantonness ally if seen against the sky. The panes of glass intervening. The Coliseum ivy (*Linarie* or *Myrsine*), or the ringlet smilax (*Myrsine*), or the fine turfs of Gypsophila and some Saxifragas, Sedums, Galiums, and other alpine plants and grasses are gracefully in every turn, like the unstudied movements of the joyous child, and color will not be wanting. Leave this enough to show their tin's transparently show them against the sky to great advantage. Most of these plants endure dry air very well.—Country Gentleman.

HAVING TREES FROM MICE.

We would call the special attention of farmers again to the importance of protecting their young trees against the winter ravage of mice. The work required to do this is but trifling and pays largely. There are numerous ways for accomplishing the desired end, but the most effectual and convenient we have ever used is to bank with earth the trunks up a few inches from the surface of the ground. A wagon load of dirt will bank a large number of trees, and if rich soil, a double benefit may be derived by spreading the same over the roots of the trees in spring. An exchange strongly urges a plan which we do not think as good as the above, yet we give it for what it is worth. It says to bandage up the stems of the old trees with any cotton or wollen cloths, or of old muslin with two or three wrappings, letting the bandage go into the ground an inch or two, and six or eight inches above ground, and tie up.

This should certainly be renewed every autumn if necessary, until the trees are large enough not to be injured. Those who are in earnest for a remedy will try this and save their trees; but it will be too much trouble for others to devote a couple of hours to this labor annually, and they will rather run race with the mice.

Mr. A. Smith, of Ailsa Craig, is gradually working his way upward as a Durham breeder. We presume that at the present time his herd of Durhams is ahead of any of the other herds now owned in Middlesex. He has among his herd one of the best Bates and Boots bulls to be found in Canada.

A COMMISSION is being held in Toronto for the purpose of devising plans for the management of the Agricultural College. Of course the doors are closed, and nothing can be known positively except to the select few.

To our readers who desire their sons to have a knowledge of the veterinary art, there is no better institution in Ontario than the College managed by A. Smith, in Toronto.

Correspondence.

In the last issue of the ADVOCATE, I noticed you touched on the tricks of poultry men in your part of the country. I was pleased with the remarks, and hope a good result from them. Bad as it appears to have been that took place at the Exhibition here. For instance, one exhibitor, competing for the medal for the best collection, only entered eleven varieties, with which he gained seven first prizes. Another exhibitor entered nineteen varieties, and gained nine first prizes. The medal was given to the person who had only taken seven first prizes, and only made eleven entries. I wish you had been here to see the birds, you might then find more to say on this subject. I would like you to mention the facts. Enclosed find report. Yours etc. Ottawa. FEATHER.

DEAR SIR,—I have taken your paper for six months; I like it well and will take it another year. I was looking over the ADVOCATE the other evening, and saw a little piece about potatoes—101 bushels to the acre—I think I can beat that a little. Last Spring I planted half an acre Early Rose potatoes; we commenced to dig them the 12th of July; after the first week we used all we wanted in the family, and there are ten of us. When I dug them in the fall I had over one hundred bushels that I put in the pit. Yours respectfully, W. FLODGE. Fullarton, Dec. 10, 1873.

DEAR SIR,—I saw an article in one of your papers about cattle having choked, and that something soft should be used in the throat, such as a rope, to relieve them. Now, I will give you my experience in relieving choked cattle or horses, and you can give it to the public through your valuable paper if you think it is of any value.

I was away from home. My wife and boy were finding the cows, and one of them got choked with a turnip. My wife sent for the neighbors, and they came to relieve the cow. One got her by the horns, and another poked a stick down her throat, and unfortunately it was a pine stick. They drove the turnip down, but broke the stick off in her throat; and the last choke was worse than the first. Then they put a clevis in her mouth and could feel the stick run into the back of her head. Some advised my wife to kill her, but she said that she would not until I came home. I arrived home at 7 in the evening. The stick was broken in her throat at eleven o'clock in the morning. I went immediately to the yard to see the cow and found the stick in her throat. I got her by the horns to turn her around and she fell on a patch of ice, and then went straight for the barn and threw out the stick, which measured 21½ inches in length and 1 inch in diameter; and then I could see that there were other ways to relieve them without sticks and ropes. The next cow that I got choked I thought I would try an experiment with. I had a pair of bars leading to my barn-yard. I took the top bars down and left three lower bars in, and I took the whip and made the cow jump over the bars, and she was relieved. That is the way I relieve all my choked cattle and horses, and I never knew it to fail. Sometimes I jump them over twice, and I find that the action of raising and the sudden drop on the front legs dislodges what is in the throat, and no injury is done to the cattle. A woman or a boy in this way can relieve a choked cow or a horse if the man is from home. Yours respectfully, JAMES BRAYLEY. FENCES.

SIR,—There is one question I would like to have you take up and argue until a change is brought about—I mean fences. Fencing material is becoming scarce and more expensive every year, and as the law now stands, we are obliged to fence against all stock pasturing upon the roads, or roaming at large. Now I would suggest that all stock, as colts, horses, dogs, &c., be ruled off the road; and the law so altered as to effect it; and further that the law shall only compel farmers to fence their own stock upon their own premises, or in other words, a fence that is sufficient to keep a man's stock on his own farm, shall in law be deemed

sufficient to keep all other stock off. That is about the substance of the law in most of the states and I believe it works well; at least I never heard one word against it either by agricultural papers, or persons talking about them, and I am sure a saving to farmers would be the result of a change. Very truly yours, H. C. JOHNSON.

ASSESSMENT.

SIR,—In your last paper you propose a change in the time of doing statute labor. Would it not be well to propose a change in the time and mode of assessment? How can an assessor do his duty when the land here in the north is covered up in a great coat of snow—say two feet deep? Our taxes are increasing, and it is of growing importance that our assessment should be equalized, and especially that it should not depend at all upon the political opinions or social position of the party assessed.

Yours, BUSHWHACKER.

HOW TO TEST SEEDS.

SIR,—Although I have retired from farming, I like to see what is going on, and I think the ADVOCATE is worth more than all I pay for it. Here is my plan for testing the vitality of seed:—

I cut two sods with a sharp spade or shovel; lay one sod down in a convenient, sunny place, with the grass side down. Then I strew a few seeds on it, and cover with the other sod, the grass part up, and in a few hours what is good of the seed will begin to sprout. By just lifting the top sod you can watch its progress without disturbing the seed on the seed bed.

If the land is very dry I pour a pailful of water on the spot from which I am going to take the sods. JOHN JONES.

POTATOES.

MR. EDITOR,—In renewing my subscription for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, I will give you a report of my potato crop this season. I have been successful, while my neighbors have scarcely any crop; and I have to thank the ADVOCATE for my success. I had your directions last spring and I followed them. I selected for my potato crop a plot as remote as possible from where potatoes had been planted before. It was a four-acre field by the side of the wood. It had been under corn the past year, the first since it was cleared. I ploughed it in the fall. This I do with all my land, unless it is too bad. I planted the potatoes in drills opening the drills shallow, and covering them deep, and then leveling them somewhat with the harrow. I used no manure. I raised from the four acres not less than 700 bushels, realizing from good crop and high prices—fully \$100 per acre. I was very little troubled with bugs, as I selected the plot for them as you advised. To screen them from the bugs I planted corn on the only exposed side; but the seed corn perished—a general complaint of the season—and some bugs from my neighbors' fields attacked the exposed corner, and they were the only ones I had to contend with. This one instance proves the value of your paper to farmers. JOHN LAWSON. Dorchester, Dec. 5, 1873.

MR. EDITOR,—The 28 pounds of Scott Wheat you sent me yielded 10 bushels this season, which was better than any other variety grown here; and I need it all for seed. BENJAMIN SMITH. Scotland, November 19, 1873.

DEAR SIR,—I got stock and interest for what I gave you for the ADVOCATE last year—just from a little said in it about the potato bug. Last year (1872) I planted a little over an acre of potatoes, about a quarter of a mile from any others; the bug did them little harm, and I had a good crop. My neighbors' potatoes were badly eaten; the reason I assign to mine being saved from the bug is what you advocated in your paper, "plant as far away from the previous year's potato ground as possible—I was successful. This year I planted 4 acres, using the same dodge, and was also successful; 3 acres you could scarcely see a bug on. I value the crop at over \$400 from the four acres. I have sold already \$318 worth. intend hauling \$50 worth more, and then have enough for my own use—not bad without the use of manure. I ploughed in the fall, after oats grown on sod. I harrowed

in spring, and afterwards cultivated an harrowed, I then made a mark with the plough every 30 inches, and about 3 inches deep. I planted the potatoes of middling sized seed from good potatoes; I then covered with the plough pretty deep and harrowed them twice over when about coming through the ground—the ground was clean and mellow afterwards. I then furrowed them up with a common plow, with a piece of wood for a second board, which made it a double moulder.

If you think this will be any benefit to you or brother farmers you can insert it in your valuable paper the ADVOCATE.

Yours truly, JOHN LAWSON. Dorchester Station, 1873.

P. S.—By-the-by, I might mention I have some potatoes around the house both these years which were badly eaten with the pest. The way I went to work in putting in the seed was, I made 8 furrows, then started planters; when 3 drills were planted I covered the first drill, then coming from the far end I opened another for the seed, the three planters keeping the teams going steady opening and covering alternately. J. L.

DEAR SIR,—Can some of your subscribers give instructions concerning ice houses? B. WANNIVRAY. Dunnsville, Dec. 1873.

The American Dairymen's Association will hold its ninth annual convention at Utica, N. Y., on the 13th, 14th, and 15th Jan. 1874.

SPRING WHEAT.

DEAR SIR,—The three pounds of Farrow Wheat that I procured from you last year yielded 43 bushels, which I think a grand yield for common cultivation. There was another new variety of wheat introduced in this neighborhood last year; it is called the Red Fair Wheat. It is bearded wheat, and seems to be ahead of any variety in this part. I send you a few grains. JOSEPH COOK, Lansdown.

Thanks for the sample sent. It is of fair quality. I would like to know more about it. Where did it come from? Is there much of it in your section? What return has it yielded per acre? I would like to see a head of it. Should it prove to be better than any of the old varieties it would be valuable. Ed. F. A.

FEEDING HORSES.

M. Sanson, Professor of Zoology, has been investigating the relations between the food given to draught horses and the amount of power it produces—that is to say, the strength giving value of the nutritious elements of food. By a series of scientific calculations, tested in the stables of the Omnibus Company of Paris, he finds that the ration in practice given to the horse are in conformity with science and the views of the Company—to feed the animals so that they will not run into flesh, they will lose nothing in strength. The mean average weight of a bus-horse is 1,800 pounds; he is employed four hours daily, drawing a weight of two and a half quarter tons, at the rate of two and a half yards a second. Each horse's daily rations consist of nine pounds of hay, twenty pounds of oats, and one and a quarter pound of bran.

CIDER VINEGAR.

Let the cider stand in a warm place until it is quite sour—the sourer the better—then draw it off into another barrel and add a quart of "mother" from good cider vinegar. The "mother" can be obtained by the aid of a hook made of wire. Stop it up and place it where it is warm. The warmer the place the sooner it will become vinegar. We have made our vinegar in this way for years, and never failed. We have no fellowship with the idea of leaving a vinegar barrel standing open to catch flies or other insects equally as objectionable.

POTATOES.—Our returns make the average product of potatoes throughout the country 15 per cent. less than last year. As the crop was then estimated 113,516,000 bushels, a falling off of about 17,000,000 bushels is indicated. In all sections the quality, except where affected with rot, is represented as superior. Among the causes of diminished product are specified drought, wet spring, rot and insects.