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THE KANSAS FARMER.

E. E. EWING, Editor and Proprietor,
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E. E. EWING,
Editor and Publisher,
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Correspondence.

Life and Growth of Plants.—No. 2.

BY L. J. TEMPLIN, HUTCHINSON, KAS.

Cells vary in shape and size in different plants and in different parts of the same plant, and even at different times in the same part. By loosening in one part and crowding in another, they become distorted and misshapen. By gentle pressure on all sides they often become dodecahedral or twelve-sided, but as growth proceeds they assume various forms according to the nature of the plant and their surrounding conditions. In the stem of the water lily some of the cells are star-shaped; in most trees they are long and pipe-like, and in the bark (bast), they are still longer, more slender and flexible. Cells ordinarily vary from 1,200 to 1,250 of an inch in diameter, though in some cases these dimensions are greatly exceeded; one case of a marine plant (*canterpa-prolifera*) being known, which is composed of a single cell, though often a foot in length and much branched. The membranous cell walls vary greatly in hardness and toughness, being very soft in the algae, or seaweeds, hard in the oak and hickory, still harder in the mahogany, and in the vegetable ivory they rival bone in hardness. Many low cryptogamic plants, as the red snow plant, consist of single cells, which divide and thus multiply the plants. Besides this method, the reproduction of plants is accomplished in various ways—by seeds, by single celled germs or spores, by off-sets, by stolons, by suckers, by runners, by tubers, by slips or cuttings, and by single leaves. Some of these methods exhibit in a remarkable degree the perfection of design and the exhaustless contrivances which the Author of nature always has at his command for the development of his plans and the accomplishment of his purposes.

The most common if not the most important method of reproduction is by means of seeds. In man's successful efforts at generalization in modern times, the conclusion has been reached that all parts of plants are simply modified leaves.

According to this doctrine of morphology, therefore, wherever a healthy leaf exists there is no great difficulty in rearing a new plant. It is a well known fact that the leaves of the orange, glorioxia malaxis, echeveria, etc., when fallen to the moist ground in a young and growing state, put forth roots and become independent plants. Seeds are simply leaves preserved in peculiar circumstances till the return of favorable conditions for growth. A seed is one of the most interesting objects in nature. It is emphatically a product of nature. Man with all his knowledge of the forces of nature, all his control of those forces, and all his skill in manipulating her materials, has no power to construct a seed. He may bring the forces of chemistry to his aid and analyze and determine its constituent elements; he may exactly weigh and determine the proportions of each of these elementary substances, but he has no power or skill to recombine them and form a seed again, much less can he take the crude elements and construct one of these embryonic plants. And indeed this is true of all organized structure. Man, by the application of chemical forces, may disintegrate and tear down, but there is no known process by which he can build up or cause to be built up any organic structure whatever. It is only under the operation of that mysterious, invisible power known as vital energy or the life principle, that any organism whatever can be built up.

A seed is an embryonic plant with means for its preservation and with material for the sustenance of the infant plant till it has reached sufficient development to procure and elaborate the materials for its own growth. It consists of two coats or protecting envelopes, the albumen or plant-food stored in it, and the embryo or plant germ. The albumen of most seeds is very largely composed of starch, vegetable albumen, casein, etc. It differs, however, in different plants, as oleaginous in the poppy, oil bean and peanut, mucilaginous, as in the flax, fleshy as in the paeony and barberry and corneas, or hornlike as in the coffee.

In the cereal grains the kernel is composed largely of starch. The wisdom and benevolence of the Creator in this arrangement is worthy of special remark. These grains are the most important of all the vegetable kingdom as food plants for man, and, except the grasses, whose seeds are of the same nature, for beasts. As not only the happiness but even the very existence of the higher animals is dependent

on this order of plants, the preservation of their seeds under the most adverse circumstances is of vital importance. This end is largely attained by the selection of the material, starch, of which they are principally composed. This substance, while it furnishes the most important elements of animal food, is not readily affected by either wet or cold. They will, therefore, retain their vitality under anything like favorable conditions for a number of years, and then when placed in suitable circumstances, germinate and grow.

Indian corn has been known to grow after thirty years, and it is claimed that wheat and peas have grown after lying in a mummy case from 3,000 to 4,000 years. Seeds are the result of the union of two sets of floral organs. A flower is a cluster of leaves modified into reproductive organs which are of two kinds—floral envelopes and essential organs. The floral envelopes generally consist of two sets or whorls of modified leaves. The outer whorl mostly consisting of green leaves is termed the calyx, each separate leaf of which is called a sepal. The inner or upper circle known as the corolla, is usually composed of thin, delicate colored leaves called petals.

All the floral envelopes considered together are termed the perianth. It frequently happens that the corolla of a flower is wanting, in which case the sepals generally assume the character and color of petals.

Above or inside the corolla we find a set of organs called stamens, consisting generally of a slender stem or filament, at the upper end of which is a small knob or ball termed an anther. The filament is not essential to the fruitfulness of the flower.

It is the office of the anther to produce a dust like powder for the fertilization of the ovaries, without which no perfect seed can be produced. In the center of the flower is the pistil, consisting of ovary style and stigma. The ovary is a bulbous enlargement at the base of the pistil containing the ovules or rudimentary seeds. The style is a stem rising from the apex of the ovary and bearing on its summit the stigma, a rough knob. The style may be wanting and the stigma sessile on the ovary, without affecting the productive character of the flower.

The stamens and pistils of flowers bear the same relation to each other that the male and female organs do among animals. The pollen from the anther falls or is thrown upon the stigma where it is generally held by a gummy, viscid substance with which this is covered. A fine thread or tube, pollen tube, is sent down through the style to the ovary, where it enters the ovules or rudimentary seeds which by some mysterious process it fertilizes and causes to develop into perfect seeds. It sometimes happens that the pollen tube must extend a distance of several inches before reaching the ovules to be affected by them. This is notably the case with Indian corn (*Zea mays*). These staminate and pistillate organs are variously arranged on different plants. On many, as the pink, apple, radish, etc., both classes are found in the same flower, hence they are termed perfect or hermaphrodite flowers. On some, as corn, squash, oak, walnut, etc., they are placed in different flowers on the same plant or tree, and are therefore called monocious, meaning in one household. In still another class, as the hemp, willow, poplar, etc., they are produced by entirely different plants, hence called dioecious, that is in two households.

Tree Growing on the Plains.

At the annual meeting of the Kansas State Horticultural Society, held in Topeka, December, 1872, Prof. R. S. Elliott offered a resolution for the adoption of the society, asking congress for legislation to encourage forest tree planting on the plains. The writer of this article urged that congress should also be asked to make an appropriation sufficient to commence a thorough series of experiments in tree growing on the plains to ascertain what could be grown, the relative cost and value of the different varieties and treatment necessary to success. I urged that the people who would take timber claims were not able to make such experiments, and that neither they nor the country could afford the loss of time and money that must follow any extensive tree planting on the plains with so little knowledge of the requirements necessary to success.

Several members from the eastern part of the state strongly objected to any such appropriation on the ground that many people in eastern Kansas were experimenting in tree growing without pay, and that their experience was worth more than the experience of one man

could be in western Kansas; so the recommendation was not supported.

Congress passed the timber claim bill and thousands of timber claims were taken by poor people who attempted to grow trees without the knowledge or the means necessary to success, and so far as I can learn all who have undertaken it in western Kansas have failed.

In eastern Kansas, and as far west as the 6th principal meridian, or Salina, on the K. P., or Newton, on the A., T. & S. F. railroads, there need be no great difficulty in growing forests, but west of that the difficulty increases rapidly, and from Great Bend westward across the plains of Kansas and Colorado. The experience of tree growers in eastern Kansas, or any other part of the United States, will be of little value, and all attempts to grow trees on the plains as they are grown in the east, must end in failure. There are seasons when the forest plantations may be started successfully. There may be a term of three or four years when the seasons will be favorable and the forest plantations will flourish, but when the dry years come again the trees will die out.

It is generally believed that the rainfall on the plains is increasing, and that as the country becomes settled and the ground plowed to any considerable extent, there will be plenty of rain and the seasons will be as favorable as they now are in eastern Kansas. I believe this to be an erroneous idea, and that if we have a correct record of the rainfall at any point for the last twenty-five years, we may safely calculate on the average for the next twenty-five years. There doubtless always was more rain on the plains than the appearance of the country indicated. The earth was beaten down and hardened by storm and sun and by the tramping of the buffalo till it had become almost impervious to water, and a rain of several days duration, would moisten only a few inches of the surface, which would soon become dry again. The subsoil rarely if ever was moistened at all from the rain, which ran off into the streams and was lost to the country. But when the surface is plowed and mellowed up it absorbs the moisture for a much longer time and gives the appearance of a greater amount of rainfall.

I have observed that where the ground had been cultivated but one year that the subsoil was moist for several feet below the surface, while the uncultivated ground alongside was dry and hard from the surface down. This shows that cultivation does materially change the condition of the soil on the plains, but it does not show any change in climate.

I have seen old pastures in the east eaten off and trampled down till a few days of sunshine would make them appear dry and parched like the western plains.

The spreading of the tall blue-stem grass westward is given as evidence that the climate is rapidly changing, but I think it only shows a changed condition of the soil. The tramping and grazing of the buffalo seems to be favorable to the growth of the short buffalo grass and unfavorable to the growth of the taller blue stem. When the buffalo leaves, the blue stem grass finding more favorable conditions for growth, overtops and smothers the buffalo grass and spreads westward every year, even in the driest season, a fact which shows that the westward advance of the tall grass is not altogether dependent upon an increase of rainfall. But we are told that the meteorological records in Kansas show that the rainfall is increasing. I have not examined the meteorological records of the state for the last five years, but up to that time I could not see any evidence in the records of any material change in the climate.

Seasons vary. No two are alike, and by comparing unfavorable with favorable seasons, almost anything can be apparently proven, and I doubt not but some person who gets the idea that the rainfall is decreasing, can by just as fair a selection of seasons, prove just as conclusively that the rainfall is decreasing as the others prove its increase.

By comparing the meteorological records for a few years with the wood growth produced in those years on several varieties of trees, we find very nearly what the climatic conditions of any year will produce, and by examining the tree growth for the past 150 years, we find all the way through evidence of nearly the same conditions occurring that we find in the meteorological records of the last 20 or 25 years. I believe, then, that it is not wise or safe to depend upon the experience of tree planters elsewhere, or upon any climatic changes that are popularly supposed to be taking place. Enough has already been wasted in depending upon these fallacies, to have supported a hundred or more experimental stations where every vari-

ety of tree and every mode of cultivation could have been tested to ascertain what would and what would not succeed.

Many people argue that because there have been failures, trees can never be successfully grown on the plains, that the country is not and never can be of any value except for a stock range. Nearly all the army officers I met who had been on the plains for a number of years, were of this opinion. Still I am confident that tree growing can be made a success on the plains, not, however, by imagining that there are no difficulties in the way and going ahead blindly, but by a systematic, thorough, practical study of the conditions necessary to success.

The soil of the plains is rich in all the elements needed to produce large tree growths. The summers are not too hot nor the winters too cold for the majority of trees that grow in the same latitudes east and west of the plains, and there will not be any serious difficulty from heat or cold if the trees are properly supplied with moisture. Without moisture to furnish sap for circulation, the tree soon dies from the sun or severe cold. Now if there is not a sufficient amount of rainfall every year and at all seasons of the year, to supply the necessary moisture for the circulation, then it must be supplied artificially.

I have been asked why I did not urge this matter of irrigation and test it when I was experimenting for the A., T. & S. F. R. R. company. I have to say in reply that I did urge it and insisted on making experiments at a number of points, but the company objected that it was not their theory or policy to have anything to do with irrigation. It would not help to sell their lands, and they believed that there would be plenty of rain as soon as the country was settled. I was told that the company could not afford to expend money in any doubtful experiments, and that I should plant a few large trees of only the hardiest kinds, "just to demonstrate the fact that trees could be grown."

The little work I did do in experimenting was done under protest, and a large part of my time was occupied in exhibiting products of the soil, working up advertisements, showing land, looking after tax matters, etc., and of course I did but little experimental work. I do not blame the railroad company. It was composed of business men who had invested their money and were investing more in building a railroad. They claimed that it was necessary to make expenses as low as possible in every department, and that though it might pay sometime they could not spare the money to experiment in any thing.

Other companies that have commenced experiments on the plains, have done even less than the A., T. & S. F. company, and so far as I know, private enterprise has done very little to solve the question. And while thousands of people can testify to what can not be done on the plains, we know little if any more about what can be done than we did ten or fifteen years ago.

As the United States government own a large proportion of the land that would be benefited by such experiments, and as it is of national importance, I still believe, as I argued years ago, that congress should make appropriations for experimental stations on the plains.

I have not written this article to find fault with anybody. I have tried to point out some of the mistakes and difficulties that are in the way of successful forest culture on the plains, and if I have not thrown any new light upon the subject, it is because I haven't any.

S. T. KELSEY.

Highland, North Carolina.

P. S. I am not a candidate for experimental forester on the plains.

In an economical point of view mutton is the cheapest meat used; it is also the healthiest, at least it is claimed so by physicians who have studied the workings of various meats upon the human system. The very poor, as well as the rich, can afford the choicest parts of the mutton carcass.

Farmers well understand the profits of early lambs of the best quality for the butcher. It is one of the most interesting and profitable branches of sheep husbandry in locations accessible to market. At twelve or fifteen weeks, properly fed, they will weigh ten to twelve pounds per quarter, and readily bring from \$6 to \$8 each. The amount of lamb in the market, however, is sometimes very liberal—in fact, more liberal than the conditions would seem to warrant. But when a customer at the restaurant calls for "roast spring lamb," and gets mutton, and don't know the difference, why, it's all the same, you know.

The Farm and Stock.

History and Description of Noted Breeds of Cattle.

BY F. D. COBURN.

(Continued from last week.)

HOLSTEINS.

The cattle now known as Holsteins are of a large, dairy stock, natives of North Holland, with its moist climate and luxuriant pastures, is preeminently a dairy country. They were first brought to America by the Dutch emigrants, who settled in and about New York, and afterwards at various times in the early part of the present century, but at that time were not of particular uniformity in appearance, but always valued highly for the quantity of milk they gave.

From 1852 to 1861, Mr. Winthrop W. Cheney, of Boston, imported a limited number of these cattle from the best dairy herds in the vicinity of Beemster and Purmurend, in the Province of North Holland, with a special care that they possessed all the most highly esteemed qualities of the race, and these were by him named Holsteins. Since then, animals of similar character have been brought from Friesland, and are called by their owners Friesland cattle. In color they are generally black-and-white-spotted, or "listed," and were it not for their color many of them would, in appearance, be accepted as Short-horns, which are nearly or quite equal in size; their bony structure is frequently rather coarse, and as a class they are inclined to be flat-sided and somewhat drooping in the rumps; for beef production they claim a medium rank, though in some markets the calves are said to be valued highly for veal. It is for giving a large quantity of a fair quality of milk that Holsteins are most famous, and for milk and cheese dairies they are rapidly growing in favor, as many recent and large importations and sales attest; for the features named they promise to continue a useful and popular breed; as a class they have proved healthful and fairly hardy, and of good temper, with quiet dispositions. Like all large cattle, they are large eaters, but return in milk product a satisfactory equivalent for all they consume.

DEVONS.

The Devon is one of the oldest and best established breeds of cattle in existence. From time immemorial they have been bred in the northerly part of Devonshire, and in many sections are designated as North Devons. They are bred in many counties of England, and are favorites on hilly soils, where their lighter weights and activity of movement are better adapted to grazing and labor than the more sluggish cattle of the heavier breeds. All importations to America have been of the North Devons, and are the cattle referred to when the word Devon is used. It is believed this breed of cattle was introduced into New England by the early colonists, but the first importation of which there is authentic information was made in the year 1817, by Messrs. Caton & Patterson, merchants of Baltimore, Md. In different years since that time small importations have been made by parties mainly in the states of Maryland, Massachusetts and New York.

In size they rank as medium, though some extra large specimens have been made to weigh almost or quite 2,000 pounds. The most noticeable characteristic of the Devons is their bright-red color, and it is one firmly fixed. The brush of the tail may be white, as well as a part of the belly, but other white markings are liable to suspicion, as indicating impurity of breeding. The horn is also notable. With the cow and steer it is rather long, with upward and outward curves, slender, and sharp-pointed. The bulls have heavy horns, extending forward rather than up. The head is short, forehead wide, and muzzle fine. The neck is rather long and fine, the shoulders sloping, the back straight, crops unduly full, the ribs well sprung, and the hind-quarters not quite so full as the forward parts. The bones of the legs and tail are fine. Those most familiar describe them as medium to good milkers, and their milk of good quality. Good success has been reported from crossing Devon bulls on the common unimproved cows of the west, and in the older states such crosses have produced steers of feeding quality satisfactory to their owners. In sections of the country where oxen are used for labor, those of the Devon breed are esteemed highly, owing to their hardiness, docility and activity.

JERSEYS, ALDERNEYS, OR GUERNSEYS.

These cattle derive their names from the three largest of the group of islands in the English Channel, near the coast of France, and between that country and England, and it is supposed they were formerly transported from the ancient province of Normandy, in France.

The cattle of the three islands are of the same general type, and are considered generally as of common origin. Alderney is a small island of less than 2,000 acres, and its cattle so nearly resemble those of Jersey that they are quite often classed as one breed. For many years the farmers on each of these islands have considered their cattle superior to those on the other islands, or any foreign-bred cattle. If their descendants in America were designated as Jerseys and Guernseys, considerable confusion as to names and breeds might be avoided. Owing to lack of size, and having for many years been bred to another purpose, they are not usually regarded as beef animals, though the cows when dry, and the bulls when well fed, fatten quite readily. The Jersey cow is small, fine-boned, with small, fine head, and crumpled horns; the hip bones are often rather prominent, the sides flat, and the rump

drooping; the skin is thin, and well covered with fine soft hair; the udder is usually well formed, but not excessively large, with teats of medium size. In color, Jerseys vary much; formerly, white markings were most common, being mixed with a light fawn; of late years animals of uniform, or "solid" color, and black extremities, have become very popular; the general appearance of a Jersey is delicate, graceful and deer-like. The Guernsey is usually about one-fifth larger than the Jersey; is coarser, heavier, less graceful or beautiful. With them, less attention has been paid to color as a fancy point, and cows with considerable white are as highly valued as those with solid colors. The chief value of these breeds lies in the richness of their milk, and the superior quality of the butter.

Sheep with Sore Eyes.

I have just commenced sheep farming in this country this season and bought some fairly graded Cotswold sheep from a man in this country. They are three and four-year-old ewes and wethers, strong, healthy and in good condition, but now that cold weather has set well in I notice a few of the strongest wethers have sore and inflamed eyes, and in one or two cases, bordering on total blindness. I also bought a lot of ewes from G. H. Wadsworth, Esq., of Larned, and I observe that some of them in all probability have suffered in a similar manner. They are provided with good shelter, and fed with hay, corn and corn-fodder. As I never observed anything of this sort in Scotland, where I came from, could you inform me through your valuable paper if this is a common experience in this country, what is the cause of it and the best method of treatment, and oblige, ALEX. FLETCHER, Cottonwood, Chase Co., Kan.

Sore eyes at this season of the year are not an uncommon affliction among sheep, and the disease is sometimes epidemic. Hard driving is apt to cause sore eyes in sheep. Bleeding from the vein at the corner of the eye is recommended. Let a man take the sheep that is to be operated upon between his knees and place its rump against a fence or wall so that the animal can be held securely. Press upon the vein with the left hand, about two inches from the angle of the jaw, and opposite the third grinder. The vein will rise as it descends from the corner of the eyes and runs along the cheek. Puncture it about an inch from the corner of the eye and give the sheep a purgative drink composed of 2 oz. epsom salts and 1 oz. powdered caraway, mixed in warm, thin gruel, sufficient to dissolve the salts, and repeat if necessary in three or four days. This is probably all that will be necessary, but the eyes may be washed with a lotion composed of a teaspoonful of laudanum mixed with half a pint of water. Wash the eye frequently with this preparation blood warm. Separate the afflicted animals from those in health and keep them sheltered from storms or exposure to dampness and severe cold.

About Wool.

A writer in the *American Stockman and Farmer* says: "One of the most remarkable results of the recent presidential election is the strength which has shown itself in the markets for wool. This effect began to show itself immediately after the Indiana election, and is universally felt in every section of this country."

I do not give all the credit to the success of the republican party in the presidential election of the wool growers' associations and manufacturers of the east combined, have kept a strong force at Washington, during every session, to watch and guard the tariff on wool and woolen goods, and to their efforts more than to any party influence, are we indebted for the benefits derived from a protective tariff, and it is not becoming us in the west to set still and hold our hands and enjoy our proportion of the benefits, without giving them some assistance in a matter that all are equally interested in.

The writer in the *Stockman* further says that the farmers are well pleased with this condition of affairs. It is unnecessary to publish this fact. Many are determined to hold their wool until they are able to get the full benefit of the rise, and there seems to be reason for this feeling; for not only are our own markets greatly improved in tone, but so also are those of other countries. But it may not be out of place here to remind our readers that the man who makes a practice of selling whenever the market offers him a fair profit, is almost uniformly successful in life, while he who becomes a speculator as well as a producer, frequently loses by so doing. This may be true in some measure but not as a rule, and particularly in wool. During the thirty years that I have raised and handled wool, I have seen but one year that did not pay well to hold wool for the spring market. But if a party holds his wool for the rise he must look out and not hold too long, or in other words he must not be too greedy to get all that ever will be in it, but sell when a good figure can be obtained, towards the latter part of the season.

It seems that prices in Chicago are about as good as at the seaboard, which is a good sign that our western markets are not overstocked and will have to draw on the eastern markets for their spring supply, as they have done in former years, which will give those who shipped to that point the benefit of the freight and commission back, if they hold long enough, and we have some safe and good men in Chicago as are found in Boston or Philadelphia. W. J. C. Larned, Kansas.

Horticulture.

Strawberry Culture.

The series of articles under the above head, written by F. A. Childs, Esq., of Cherokee county, and which are being published in the *FARMER*, will be of great value to the new beginner, and are of special interest to all of us who are yet in the A. B. C. of strawberry culture.

Mr. Childs' plan of setting strawberry plants with a wheelbarrow and spade, is certainly a new one to me, at least, and I am inclined to think it is one of the best plans where time is a consideration.

The experience of Mr. Childs with "hill culture" as compared with the matted row system, agrees with a large majority of the best fruit growers in the state. Grubs and worms so destructive to strawberry plants, are very plentiful in the soil of the western states, and the loss of a hundred plants leaves a large unoccupied space in a plantation.

There are many other good points worthy of consideration in the articles referred to, but there are statements and recommendations in them so entirely at variance with the teachings of horticulturists in this as well as other states, that I am anxious, as I suppose many others are, for further light upon these points.

The Wilsons Albany bears the same relation to strawberries as the Bartlett does to pears, or the Concord to grapes, or the Peachblow Early among peaches, or the Peachblow among potatoes, viz: it is the standard of excellence by which all others are judged. For fully twenty years it has been the standard in every state and territory, wherever this strawberry is grown, and yet in view of all these facts, Mr. Childs, in his article, entirely discards and sends to oblivion the Wilsons, as utterly worthless in comparison with the Charles Downing, a strawberry which has never been elected the favorite by any state horticultural society, (with two possible exceptions), although having been cultivated for twelve years and extensively disseminated over the Union during this time. And right here it might be well enough to copy a part of the discussion on strawberries reported at the annual meeting of the Michigan Horticultural Society for 1879:

"The contest was over the Wilsons Albany, which was marked in the society catalogue at the highest figure, 10, in a scale of 10, as a market berry."

"Mr. J. P. Thompson moved that this mark be reduced one point, to 9. He said it was demoralizing the market. Any fool can raise it. The glut in the market which had brought the market down to three, four and five cents a quart was occasioned by this Wilson that growers were raising in excess."

"A gentleman said this was the keynote of the whole thing: glutting the market with a cheap growing variety like the Wilsons was the trade. * * * The motion to put the Wilson down one peg was carried." [Report of the Michigan State Horticultural Society, 1879, page 85.]

The Society canvassed the vote for the strawberry that would fill the bill and not have that bad quality of being raised too cheaply, and they settled on the Charles Downing, and that strawberry was therefore raised one peg at the same meeting.

A few years ago the Department of Agriculture, at Washington, tested fifty kinds of strawberries, and in the report of the results, after years of careful experiments, the Wilson received the highest mark of excellence.

In the Report of the Indiana State Horticultural Society for 1876, page 29, and in the Report for 1878, pages 33 to 65, the Wilson is given the preference over all other kinds.

In the Report of the State Horticultural Society of Minnesota, page 79, the Wilson is placed at the head of the list.

The largest nurserymen in the world, Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, of Rochester, N. Y., in their strawberry catalogue for 1880, after describing forty-four varieties which they raise, say of the Wilson, page 10: "The most widely known and universally successful strawberry grown."

This is high but just praise. Now let us examine the annual Reports of the Kansas State Horticultural Society. This Society is composed of eminent horticulturists, many of whom have a national as well as a state reputation among the best horticulturists of the Union.

In the Report of 1875, page 92, Mr. Robert Milliken, one of the best pomologists in the state, says of the Wilson: "So far no variety has been found to excel the Wilsons Albany in hardiness and productiveness. Mr. W. W. Tipton, of Coffey county said most varieties of strawberries, the Wilson excepted, died during the summer of 1874 (grasshopper year)."

In the Report for 1877, a "Voted Fruit List" is given made up of reports from different horticulturists over the state. In the strawberry list reports were received from forty-one counties. The Wilson was placed at the head in thirty-seven counties, Col. Cheney in one county, Downer's Prolific in two counties, and the Colfax in one county. The Charles Downing is first in none, but second in nine counties.

In the Report for 1878 the list is not changed the Wilson holding the same relative position. The county of Cherokee, in which Mr. Childs resides, voting (see 330) the Wilsons the leading variety, while Charles Downing follows as second best.

In the Report for 1880, in a vote of forty-four members of the Society, thirty-seven voted for the Wilsons as the leading berry, and seven giving the preference to the Charles Downing; Cherokee county, as in previous years, casting her vote for the Wilson.

The tens of thousands of readers of the *FARMER*, scattered over the United States from Maine to California, and from Minnesota to Florida, cherish with pardonable pride this King of Strawberries, and it will be scores of years before any other kind will win its way to the hearts of the people as has the Wilson's Albany. W. W. CONE. Topeka, Kansas.

Apiary.

Prepare for Winter.

All through this latitude bees not yet prepared for winter should receive immediate attention. If you have any doubts that there are not sufficient stores to carry them safely through to May, or if the honey is of poor quality, you should at once place from two to four pounds of candy on top and crosswise of the frames. White cream candy in bars about two inches wide by four inches long, porous and soft, is the kind to use. Pile it up on top of the brood frames in such a way that the bees can freely pass between the sticks. Over the pile draw a cloth tightly, and fasten all around the edges, so that a bee cannot get outside. On the top of this, and covering the whole top of the hive, place a chaff cushion four inches thick and securely held down all around the edges, and above this should be a chamber where the air can freely circulate and carry off all excess of moisture. The sides of single-wall hives may be protected in any way to secure warmth. Keep the hives well down to the ground. Give a plain entrance about two inches wide for the bees to fly in and out at will. Keep the entrance shaded from the direct rays of the sun and from the driving in of wind and rain, and all will be well. This candy being a comparatively dry feed, acts as a preventive of dysentery.—*Bee-Keepers' Magazine*.

Poultry.

Care of Poultry.

Alderman Mechi, of London, a successful English farmer, claims that nothing pays better on a farm than a good stock of poultry well managed. He allows his fowls to roam his premises, and thinks they are a benefit to the grain crops. With fowls, he says, "everything is turned to good account, not a kernel, wild seed, or insect, escaping their scrutinizing eyes. Their industrious claws are ever at work, uncovering ready for appropriation, every hidden but consumable substance. He regards grass as a necessity for them in summer, and in winter they should have Swedes or mangels. Pure water and shelter from wet are requisite for their thrift. To prevent disease he advises salting the yards, where they are confined in autumn, when the winter rains will wash it well in and, sweeten the surface." He says, "broods of chickens never do better with us than with the grass browse or patches abutting upon the growing crops either of corn or pulse, into which they run either for insects or for shelter. The roof of the coop should be water-tight, and the coops should often be moved, having only the natural ground for the floor. The natural ground soon gets tainted unless you move the coop. You can hardly make some people good managers of poultry if they lack observation and judgment. This is especially necessary in the breeding of poultry. Your male bird should be changed often, say every second year. He should be young and vigorous. Breeding in-and-in won't do any more than with other animals. I consider game, poultry and birds the farmer's friends. My poultry have access at all times to my fields. Fowls are very useful in clearing off flies. I have often been amused at seeing the neat and quick manner of taking them from reposing bullocks, much to the comfort of the latter."

Feeding Hens for Eggs in Winter.

If a man has a comfortable place in which to keep his hens, he can keep them laying through the winter, if he chooses to give them the necessary care and attention in the preparation and variety of food. As to variety of food, though corn and buckwheat, as well as other sorts of grain, are excellent food for poultry, still neither corn nor buckwheat alone, meets the requirements for egg production, but either or both of them with the addition of other food of different kinds, to make a variety suited to the birds' wants, will answer the purpose, and produce a supply of eggs which will repay the expense and labor involved. I have had excellent results from feeding mainly with buckwheat, giving daily, in addition, some kind of cooked food warm, as, for instance, a pudding of corn meal, or some small potatoes baked, occasionally seasoning the mess well with cayenne pepper.

An occasional feeding of scraps of meat or something of that kind, is also necessary in the winter when the fowls are confined to the house and there are no insects or anything of that nature which they can procure—at any rate if this is not a necessity it will be found a very beneficial addition to their diet.—*Rural New Yorker*.

If You Are Sick, Read

the Kidney Wort advertisement in another column, and it will explain to you the rational method of getting well. Kidney Wort will save you more doctor's bills than any other medicine known. Acting with specific energy on the kidneys and liver, it cures the worst diseases caused by their derangement. Use it at once in dry or liquid form. Either is equally efficient, the liquid is the easiest, but the dry is the most economical.—[Interior.

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KANSAS FARMER.

[Any of these books will be forwarded, by mail post-paid, on receipt of price.]

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Allen's (R. L.) Diseases of Domestic Animals.	1.00
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American Weeds and Useful Plants.	.75
Barber's Crack Shot.	.25
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As for Mr. POON's forty-acre field of corn

Literary and Domestic

Autumn Woods.

Mountains bending,
Steep ascending,
Clad in colors bright and blending,
Windy woodlands—never ending,
Flaming floods on every slope:
Fiery blushes,
Tawny flushes:
God is in the burning bushes,
And the vision on his rushes
Like the rose heights of hope!

Crimson, yellow,
Misty, Mellow,
How the forests bow and billow!
Maple, ash and oak and willow
Shed the trophies of the year:
Thus we render,
All our splendor,
Leaf by leaf in sad surrender,
Pomp and pride and pleasure tender:
When our days are in the rear.

Down they shiver!
Quake and quiver!
On the swift and silent river,
Where the current glides forever
To the wide and windy sea!
Sifting, sowing,
Drifting, blowing;
Now they're floating—gaily going
Like the lives of man—flowing
To the life that is to be.

The Long-Lost Ten Tribes Found.

Prof. Sachau, who has lately returned from the east, brings news of a discovery that cannot fail to prove interesting to all Bible students. In II Kings, xvii, 6, we read that "the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah, and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes." In the 15th chapter and 11th verse this is repeated. From the context in both places one gathers that Shalmaneser carried the Israelites away; although he did in reality die during the three years of the siege, which was brought to a successful conclusion by his successor, Sargon, in 720. In I Chronicles, v, 26, the deportation of the Israelites is ascribed to Pul and to Tilgath-Pileser, both, probably, names for the same person, the predecessors of Shalmaneser. The Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh are mentioned as those whom he deported, and Hara is added to the places mentioned in Kings. It may be well to recall, in passing, that Tiglath-Pileser actually did wrest the trans-Jordanic territory from the king of Israel. In the apocryphal Book of Tobit we find the Israelites spoken of as dwelling in the cities of the Medes, and a city, Rages, is mentioned, a place in the neighborhood of the modern Teheran, south of the Caspian Sea. Shortly after, or about the time of the capture of Samaria, Sargon conducted some campaigns in Babylonia and Elam, on the Persian Gulf, and from these regions he brought inhabitants to supply the vacancy caused by the deportation of the Israelites.

Halah was a portion of the city of Nineveh, the capital of the country, which had apparently, at the time of Sargon's accession, been somewhat depopulated by civil strife. The cities of the Medes were southeast of the Sea of Urmia and south of the Caspian. But where was "Habor, a river of Gozan?" Both names appear twice. Habor appears as a tributary of the Euphrates, and Gozan as part of Mesopotamia. For a long time this was supposed to be the region meant. There had, however, been no wars or disturbances of any sort to cause the depopulation of this part of Mesopotamia, and it is difficult to see why Sargon should have made room for them there. Further, to settle them in a place from which they could so readily return to their home would have been contrary to the Assyrian policy. There was also a scarcely known Habor and Gozan in the neighborhood of the Sea of Urmia, and there is yet a Valley of Habor west of that sea. The expeditions of Tiglath-Pileser and Shalmaneser against Namri, about the Sea of Urmia, and against a land that is unknown, because the inscription is defective, but which lay apparently in the same northeasterly direction from Nineveh, would have made room for the importation of people from Semaria; and we find, in point of fact, "the cities of Medes" mentioned as a place into which the Israelites were settled. This locality would have been far enough removed from Samaria to prevent the possibility of return. It satisfies, further, the close connection in the Bible narrative between Gozan and Media.

West of the Sea of Urmia, among the mountains, dwells the small remnant that still speaks Armenian. While traveling in this region, Prof. Sachau heard of some valleys inhabited by Jews. After some difficulty he succeeded in visiting them. He found a people speaking the Turkish tongue but retaining the Jewish religion. They had a tradition that they belonged to the ten tribes of Israel, and that they had been brought thither by the Assyrians. There seems no reason to doubt the truth of their tradition. The Israelites in Nineveh and in the cities of the Medes, naturally were lost in the population about them; but these Israelites, so isolated among the mountains, would just as naturally have preserved their identity in the same way that the Armenians have preserved their language. Hebrews certainly are. They could not have come out of Babylon unless a body of commercial Jews suffered an impossible metamorphosis into agricultural Israelites. Unless you derive them from the ten tribes of Israel they remain unexplained.

It is a pity that Prof. Sachau, not being an Old Testament scholar, did not interest himself as to the Hebrew text they use, nor as to

any divergence of rites or ceremonies from those now in use among the Jews. It is, of course, probable that they came under the influence of the ubiquitous mercantile Jews, accepted their texts and were rabbinized; but it is, nevertheless, possible that a search among them might be richly rewarded.

It is interesting to trace the fate of the different tribes. A part of Simeon was absorbed in Judah. A part, as we learn from I Chronicles, iv, 42, migrated to Mount Seir, and ultimately were lost among the Arabs. The Reubenites seem to have taken the same direction, toward Arabia. Reuben appears to have lost itself in Moab. Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh were absorbed in other peoples. Of Ephraim, probably Issachar and the other half of Manasseh the well-to-do people were deported by Sargon; the poorer classes, with settlers from Babylonia and Elam, formed the Samaritans, so hated by the Jews. Asher, Naphtali, Zebulun, and the greater part of Dan, so far as they were not lost in the neighboring Phœnician and Aramaic population, formed with some admixture from the Jews proper, the despised Galileans, Judah, Levi, Benjamin, a part of Simeon, and a part of Dan, with stray families from other tribes, are the modern Jews.

Among the Jews of Habor, or some of the Jewish tribes of Arabia, it is not impossible that valuable discoveries may yet be made.—Independent.

The Medical Flora of Kansas, and an Epitome of the Medicinal Properties.

BY DR. J. H. OYSTER, MEDICAL BOTANIST, PAOLA, KANSAS.

I present to the readers of the FARMER a list of the indigenous vegetable therapeutic agents of Kansas, and a summary of their medicinal properties. The description will not be given, as it would require too much space for it. The various works on botany can be consulted. The botanical name will be given, first (in italics) and following it will be the common or vulgar name or names, when there are such. *Clematis virginiana*. There are several species of this family here.

C. virginiana. Leather-flowers. These are climbing plants. They are diuretic and diaphoretic. They may be used for secondary syphilis, cancerous and other foul ulcers. These plants have not received the attention they deserve.

Ranunculus repens, Crawfoot. Powerful rubefacient and emipasti. When swallowed in the fresh state, produces heat and pain in the stomach.

Delphinium consolida, Larkspur. The seeds and the roots are the parts used. Diuretic, emmenagogue, vermifuge, emetic and cathartic. Affects the nervous system powerfully.

Asimina triloba, Pawpaw. The pawpaw is a well known shrub. A tincture of the seeds are emetic.

Menispermum canadense, Yellow parilla, Moonseed. A common climbing plant. It bears black berries; ripe in the fall. The root is a pleasant, bitter tonic, laxative and alterative. It possesses great power and is entirely innocent. "Notwithstanding the unmerited neglect which it has suffered, it possesses properties of a highly sanative kind, which must ultimately secure to it the favorable attention of the profession." This remedy stands unrivaled for many diseases.

Podophyllum peltatum, May Apple, Mandrake. The root, properly prepared, is the best cathartic known. Alterative in small doses. *Sanguinaria canadensis*, Blood-root. Emetic, expectorant, diaphoretic, acro-narcotic, sedative, alterative, and in small doses tonic and stimulant. This is a useful plant.

Argemone mexicana, Prickly Poppy. I found this plant in western Kansas and Colorado. It is a showy herb with a large flower—yellow, varying to white. It has not found its way into but a few works on materia medica. The juice is employed as a hydragogue cathartic in dropsy. An infusion of the herb is used as a sudorific.

Sisymbrium officinale, Hedge Mustard. The herb is diuretic and expectorant. *Brassica nigra*, Black Mustard. Laxative, and it has acquired some reputation as a remedy in dyspepsia.

B. alba, White Mustard, can also be used for the same diseases as the black mustard. *Hypericum perforatum*, St. John's-wort. Astringent, sedative and diuretic. Its medicinal agency was held in high repute, especially among the ancients.

Malva rotundifolia, Low Mallow. Demulcent and emollient. Boiled in milk and water it may be used as a constant drink in bowel complaints. *Abutilon avicennae*, Indian Mallow. Abundant in a mucilage which readily imparts to water. It is exhibited in irritated and inflamed states of the alimentary canal, pulmonary and urinary organs, etc.

Linum sulcatum. (As a common name I shall call it Prairie Flax.) Have found it to contain tonic properties. *Oxalis stricta*, Wood Sorrel, Sheep Sorrel. *O. violacea*. Either of these can be used without disadvantage, as they possess about similar properties. These plants have been used for cancerous affections.

Geranium maculatum, Crane's Bill. Powerful astringent. Used in chronic dysentery, diarrhea, and cholera infantum. *Impatiens fulva*, Touchmenot, Jewelweed, Balsamweed. *I. pallida*. These two species have nearly the same properties. An ointment made is used with great advantage in piles. (Continued next week.)

True and False Economy.

I think we often make a mistake on the secret of economy in the matter of home made articles. We are apt to congratulate ourselves on the great "saving" we have made in some such enterprise, when in fact, it was a pretty dear bargain.

Passing by the vexed question with regard to the matter of rag carpets, I can't help thinking my friend's home made, white countenance was a rather costly affair. There was the first cost of the materials used, coarse, unbleached muslin, and balls of candle wick—the sum would certainly have been half enough to buy a pretty Marcellis spread which would have been handsomer and more serviceable and far more easily laundered.

Then came the long, tedious process of making. If a woman's time has any money value, it would be for more than the remaining cost of the bought counterpane.

So the many pieced quilt, which so abound in country places—are not really so economical as seems at first glance, nor really so comfortable as good woolen blankets.

Where they are put together as a pastime, they make very pleasant fancy work for leisure minutes.

If any one "takes comfort" in these home made manufactures, then they become really valuable, even though they are expensive luxuries.

The way to take our recreation in the manner we like, not in the way that suits some other person.

But young ladies, anxious to save time for self improvement, would do well to buy, rather than make most of their fancy articles. It takes almost as much money to buy the wool for a knit shawl, as to buy the article itself; and every one knows how nearly endless is the task of knitting one. So, too, of the many trimmings wrought so laboriously with the crochet needle, you can buy prettier Hamburg edge at almost the cost of the materials.

A few neat collars and cuffs bought at a trimming store will have a style and finish that cannot be given them when manufactured at home and more real satisfaction is gained and days of worrying saved.

Learn to take the value of time into the account in estimating the comparative economy of home made articles over those you buy.

What is economy for one person under some circumstances, is extravagance in another.

Cases in point may readily be recalled. For some housekeepers with neither a clock or a child to take up their time, it may be all very well to sit down day after day to the piecing of silk quilts and chair and sofa covers, but for busy, over-taxed mothers, it would be too expensive a luxury.

When working women learn to buy ready-made clothing more generally, they will have taken an advance step towards their emancipation, and will no doubt, add years to their lives. Rural New Yorker.

What to Teach Girls.

To darn stockings and sew on buttons.

To say no, and mean it; or yes, and stick to it.

To teach them to regard the morals and not the money of their beaux.

To keep a house in neat order, with everything in its place.

That the more one lives within one's income the more one will save.

That tight lacing ought to be prevented by law as opium smoking in China.

That the further one lives beyond one's income, the nearer one gets to the poor house.

That a reliable young man with good business qualities is worth a dozen loafers in fine harness.

Teach them every day some item of dry, hard, practical common sense, and they will yet find time for idealisms.

That any amount of tight lacing and pinching of corsets cannot improve a form that the Almighty made in his own image.

Give them, if possible, a good substantial education, and as many of the accomplishments as you can afford, but never neglect their home training.

Medical Use of Eggs.

For burns or scalds nothing is more soothing than the white of an egg, which may be poured over the wound. It is softer, as a varnish for a burn, than collodion, and being always at hand can be applied immediately. It is also more cooling than the "sweet oil and cotton," which was formerly supposed to be the surest application to allay the smarting pain. It is the contact with the air which gives the extreme discomfort experienced from ordinary accidents of this kind; and anything which excludes the air and prevents inflammation is the thing to be at once applied.

The egg is also considered one of the best remedies for dysentery. Beaten up slightly with or without sugar and swallowed as a gulp, it tends by its emollient qualities to lessen the inflammation of the stomach and intestines, and by forming a transient coating of these organs to enable nature to resume her healthful sway over the diseased body. Two, or at most three, eggs per day would be all that are required in ordinary cases; and since the egg is not merely medicine, but food as well, the lighter the diet otherwise, and the quieter the patient is kept, the more certain and rapid is the recovery.—Boston Journal of Chemistry.

Advertisements.

In answering an advertisement found in these columns, our readers will confer on us a favor by stating that they saw the advertisement in the Kansas Farmer.

Agents Wanted. **C4S150** S. M. SPENCER, 112 Wash'n st., Boston, Mass. Particulars free. **50** All Lithographic Chromo Cards, no 2 alike 10c. **62** Golden Chromo, Crystal, Rose, Damask, Navy, etc. Name in gold and jet black. Winslow & Co., Meriden, Ct. A YEAR and expenses to agents. Outfit Free. **777** Address P. O. VICKERY, Augusta, Maine. **50** New Style Cards, Lithographed in bright colors, 10c. 50 Ag's Samples Inc. Conn. Card Co., Northford, Ct.

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18 Elite, Gold Bow, Bevel Edge cards 25c. or 20 Chinese Chromos, 10c. J. B. HUSTED, Nassau, N. Y.

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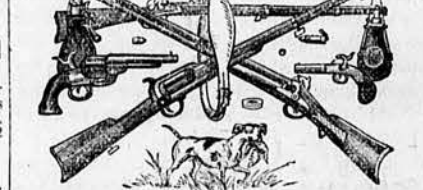
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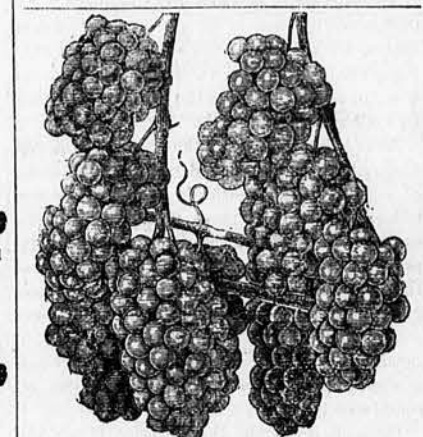


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How to Make Sauerkraut.

The best kind of sauerkraut is made of the little drumhead cabbage, ripe in October. Hollow the spindle, cut the cabbage in slender ribbons, which are put on a cloth exposed to the air for about two hours, in order to dry a little, to soften and to be more easily compressed in barrels. The best barrels are those empty of wine or brandy. If new barrels are used they must be washed with lime water, put in a cellar, one flat bottom lying on pieces of timber, the other open. The cellar must be fresh and sheltered from frost.

The quantity of salt is two pounds for twenty cabbages. To fill the barrels: put a bed of salt one-fourth of an inch deep in the bottom, then a bed of sauerkraut six inches thick. That bed must be compressed until the six inches are reduced to three inches. Then a second bed of salt and sauerkraut, compressed the same way, and so on, until the barrel is full. (In Germany they generally compress with the foot.) The barrel must be filled only about two inches from the top edge, so as to receive a strong and heavy cover loaded with rocks.

After a few days the sauerkraut sinks under the great weight, the water comes above the cover and must be taken away and substituted by new brine every three days, until the water remains clear and free of bad smell. It is very important to have the sauerkraut always loaded and covered by about one inch of brine. The Germans mix in the sauerkraut some juniper berries (two pounds per twenty cabbages), some dill (herb), some cummin and other strong smell.

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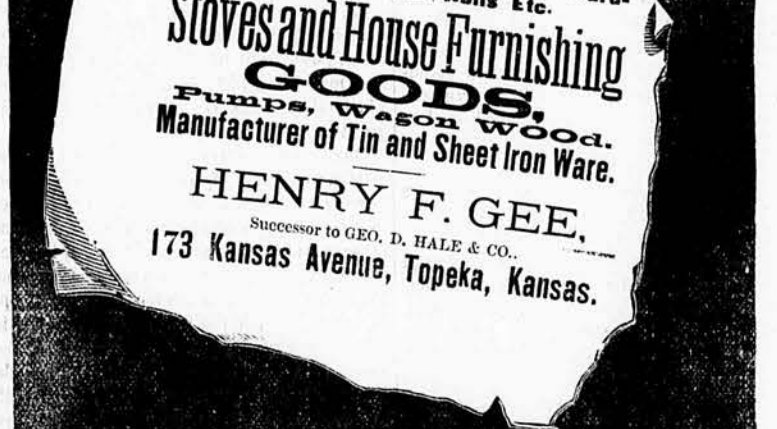
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It CURES where all else fails. A REVELATION and REVOLUTION in Medicine. Absorption or direct application, as opposed to unsatisfactory internal medicines. Send for our treatise on Kidney troubles, sent free. Sold by druggists, or sent by mail, on receipt of price, \$2.

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BATES & HANLEY,

134 Madison Street,

Chicago, Ills.

I CURE FITS!

When I say cure, I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again; I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of

Fits, Epilepsy or Falling Sickness

after long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a Treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post-office. It costs you nothing for a trial, and I will cure you. Address

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THE SHEEP'S LIFE AND SHEPHERD'S FRIEND.

New and very Important Discovery.

Deodorizer, Disinfectant, Antiseptic, Insecticide,

and valuable Therapeutic agent. Little's soluble Phenyle; also Little's Chemical Fluid. The new sheep dip is a sure cure for Scab, Mange and foot rot, kills lice, ticks, and improves the growth and quality of wool; cheaper and better than anything of the kind in use at present, as one trial will prove, costing less than three cents to dip a sheep, mixes readily with water, and is used as a dip in cold water at all seasons of the year; has all the advantages of carbolic and arsenic without their poisonous effects. Send a 3 cent stamp for prospectus and testimonials to

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210 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.

TRY IT. IT HAS CURED THE LUNG PAD.

Cures by ABSORPTION (Nature's way.)

ALL LUNG DISEASES, THROAT DISEASES, BREATHING TROUBLES.

It DRIVES INTO the system curative agents and healing medicines. It DRAWS FROM the diseased parts the poisons that cause death. Thousands Testify to its Virtues.

You Can be Relieved and Cured.

Don't despair until you have tried this Sensible, Easily Applied and RADICALLY EFFECTUAL Remedy.

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Send for Testimonials and our book, "Three Millions a Year," sent free.

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Farm Letters.

Give the Direction and Distance.

It would be often a satisfaction to strangers, and persons in the east, if correspondents would state, in their farm letters, the distance and direction from Topeka at the point from which they write.

FALL RIVER, Nov. 24.—My sheep seem to be free from scab, but I notice wool on the ground where they have rested, and see it starting from some of their backs. Can you tell me cause and remedy?

I shall be glad to see explicit articles on the care of sheep, etc.

They claim that clover does not do well in this part of the State, (Elk and Greenwood counties). Why not?

S. K. GEORGE.

Subscribe to the KANSAS FARMER and read it carefully for one year and you will know all about stock farming and grasses. We can't teach you all in one or two numbers. Friend Colvin will probably tell you what makes your sheep shed their wool. It looks like they were troubled with scab.

Plow deep and sow orchard grass and clover together; six quarts of clover seed and a half bushel of orchard grass to the acre. Ground should be ready to sow early in spring, as soon as danger from frost is past. A hard freeze will kill clover after it sprouts.

There is no hand machine made for grinding corn and cob together that our correspondent inquires for. It requires a good deal of power for that purpose.

NAV, Pawnee Co.—For several days past we have been enjoying stormy weather. It has snowed for part of two days and during the time there may have fallen two inches, enough at any rate to make a good blanket for our wheat, which by the way is looking very fine. I believe I can say with truth that wheat never looked better. At any rate our prospects look favorable for a good crop.

Corn crop nearly all gathered and the average on the whole number of acres planted would not make more than five to eight bushels per acre. Many fields were nearly ruined by the cut or army worm, others by chinch bugs and others by dry weather; while again you would occasionally find a field that might yield forty bushels to the acre.

Rice, or Egyptian corn has been a more profitable crop, averaging perhaps twenty bushels to the acre. Quite a number of large fields of it in this vicinity are yet ungathered. I believe that if it was properly managed, that a much larger yield could be obtained. My experience in raising rice corn is to plow in spring and plant about the middle of May. My winter plowing and early planting did not make as good a yield as that plowed in the spring and planted in May. I had a field of fourteen acres, ten acres I plowed in the winter and planted in April, the balance—four acres, I plowed the first of May and planted about the middle of May, and I have harvested more from the four acres than from the ten acres and with one third less cultivating.

I am fully convinced from three years experience that winter plowing for crops in Pawnee county is not profitable. And I would like to ask the practical farmers of Kansas to give their experience on winter plowing in Kansas; not in Illinois, Ohio, or Maine, for what may do there wouldn't perhaps do here.

F. F. DOWNS.

COPE, Jackson Co., Nov. 23.—16 miles NE of Topeka. For the past ten days we have had stern winter. It came on so suddenly that many of the farmers had not finished digging their potatoes, and hence will lose them. Fall wheat is looking remarkably well. There has been a large breadth sown here this fall. The corn crop in the south half of Jackson county is light; in the northern part it is much better. Horses have all got the epizootic. Cattle, hogs and sheep are doing well. New comers from Ohio, Indiana and Iowa are coming in and settling down on our fine prairies. The hitherto unbounded range for stock will soon be all under fence. Wheat is \$1.00; corn, 30c; flax seed, \$1.00; hogs, \$4 to \$5 and market active and prices tending upward.

J. J. WILLIAMS.

TROY, Doniphan Co., 70 miles northeast of Topeka, Nov. 22.—I am only an amateur farmer having only commenced for myself last spring, but have succeeded first-rate so far. I have a desire to raise good hogs. Have lately purchased some young sows for breeders. They are of the Poland China breed and seven-eighths blood. Will some older farmer please to inform me at what age to breed them to get the best pigs?

We have had quite cold weather for a week, the thermometer being as low as 8 degrees below zero, to our knowledge.

Corn husking is in full blast. The crop is splendid in this vicinity. I have one piece of thirty acres that will yield seventy-five bushels per acre. Wheat looks well for the time of year.

We have elected a farmer to the legislature in this district and "left" the lawyers.

The FARMER is a most welcome visitor to us, my wife taking great interest in the domestic, poultry, and dairy items. But I will close, as this is my first letter.

F. A. HENRY.

We would like to have our young "amateur farmer" write often, and believe that are long he will leave some of his older brothers in the business behind. Men who are amateurs gen-

erally make master workmen, as they are most likely to make good use of their brains. We have hopes, also, that Mrs. H. will become interested enough in our domestic page to send some of her experiences for the benefit of her sister housekeepers.

MYRTLE, Phillips Co., Nov. 17.—What weather! Snow in October, and this morning, the 17th, ground frozen six inches deep, and cold enough for Christmas. Combining our drouth this summer with our cold spell now, it makes a season remarkable for its severity to the crops and the farmers of Phillips county. What wheat was sown looked splendid before this freeze; amount of acreage small for lack of seed.

Corn is not husking quite as well as we hoped, the early frost in September injuring the late planted. Prices are, however, low, ranging from 15 to 25 cents, according to quality; enough raised, however, to fat hogs and feed teams. Some pieces are exceptionally fine for this year, my neighbor, C. J. Lewis, Esq., telling me he has corn that husks 45 bushels per acre.

Stock of all kinds is looking exceptionally well. Young cattle are entering winter fat, as a rule. Horses fat and healthy. Stock hogs growing finely. We all feel encouraged in thinking that the season of 1881 will be a good one for us farmers.

Have just finished planting five acres of black walnuts on timber entry. No. of bushels planted 263, as picked from the tree; cost per bushel, 50c; cost of planting, \$5; harrowing and marking, \$2.50; plowing with hand hoe, \$5; total cost, \$25.67. Now I await successful growth.

Our season past was hard on soft maple and nutmeg; only half of the number received from nursery making winter quarters alive. I failed to sprout a single plant from the catalpa and other seeds kindly sent me, last spring, by Prof. Stehle. I took extra pains with seed bed, but the spring drouth here was too severe. I hope to hear, through the FARMER, how others in Kansas who received seeds, succeeded. Those successful, please give us your methods. Write for your paper, brother farmers. Tell us what you have done this season and how you did it.

E. W. POOR.

"You should have tramped the bed firmly after planting if the ground was dry."—[Ed.]

OFFERLE, Edwards Co., 260 miles southwest of Topeka, November 23.—You will see we are in the dry belt of the last two seasons, and after hearing all the discouraging reports of us, you will certainly excuse us if we do not say much of interest or give a flattering report. Times are somewhat dull, but farmers are in good spirits, and those that went to work in the spring with a will, see their labor crowned with a fair degree of success. Wheat, oats and barley were a failure, owing to the drouth in the spring, but rice corn, broom corn, sorghum, millet, etc., proved a good crop, and Indian corn, where well cultivated, is a fair crop.

The prospects for a wheat crop next year are exceedingly flattering, the early snow being extremely good. (I think most of our farmers too late.) Varieties sown are Red May and Turkey. A fair acreage sown. Ground is in good condition to go into winter quarters.

Our county is being largely taken up by sheep, which are being brought in this fall from Colorado and New Mexico, by thousands. Sheep are generally in good condition, and with proper care must prove a good investment in this part of the state.

Weather has been uncommonly cold for the past ten days, (colder than I have ever known here at this time of year). About four inches of snow on the ground and snowing rapidly while I am writing.

Immigration is setting this way again, (being temporarily checked by the drouth), and come they will, for we are in the most beautiful part of the state. (If any of your readers doubt this let them come and see, and they will return home satisfied as to the truthfulness of my remarks.) Those who come are almost invariably favorably impressed with our state, and the southwest part in particular.

Stock is generally in good condition. There are a few mild cases of epizootic among the horses; otherwise healthy.

Prairie hay is selling at \$2 to \$3 per ton in stack; millet hay, \$3 to \$3.50 in stack.

PATRON.

AGNES CITY, 40 miles northwest from Topeka, Nov. 30.—Wheat is looking splendid; never looked better at this time. Winter is setting in earlier than usual. Stock is looking well and there is an abundance of feed in this vicinity. I would say that about eight-tenths of the corn was cut for fodder.

This is strictly a stock country. The farmers are engaged in raising cattle and hogs, and the major part of them are breeding from pure-bred males, and have reached the conclusion that it is profitable to pay one hundred dollars for a pure-bred Short-horn bull, knowing that the increase from 25 to 30 cows will amply pay the difference in one year. Such is the opinion of all that are well posted and are willing to keep up with the times, knowing that it will pay better with money invested, to raise one high-grade that is worth \$30 to \$35 at two years of age, than it is to raise a scrub that at the same age is worth only about \$18 to \$20. Let any that are in doubt try, and I am sure that they will be convinced. It is impossible to estimate the real value of a pure-bred male. Just let the intelligent farmer see his neighbor raise a calf that will weigh 800 to 1,200 pounds with the same care and feed that he has given his, that will only weigh half as much, he will be-

come convinced that blood will tell if it only has the opportunity.

From the best information I can get, calves that have been grazing on oat stubble are more subject to black-leg. I would like some of the readers of the FARMER to take notice, in all cases of black-leg in their vicinity, and ascertain if there is anything in my observations; and those that run on rye are less liable to that disease.

Hogs are selling at 3 1/2 to 3 3/4; cows, \$20 to \$30 per head; yearling steers, \$15 to \$22 per head. All cattle are in good demand.

The election is over, and I rejoice to know that the temperance amendment carried, and I regret that the \$200 exemption was lost. Try again, should be our motto. "Never say die."

E. C. EDWARDS.

THE STRAYLIST.

HOW TO POST A STRAY.

BY AN ACT of the Legislature, approved Feb. 27, 1866, section 1, when the appraised value of a stray or strays exceeds ten dollars, the County Clerk is required, within ten days after receiving a certified description and appraisement, to forward by mail, notice containing a complete description (said strays, the day on which they were taken up, their appraised value, the name and residence of the taker up, the Kansas FARMER, together with the sum of fifty cents each animal contained in said notice).

How to post a Stray, the fees and penalties for not posting.

Broken animals can be taken up at any time in the year. Notice is taken by the County Clerk, on the first day of November and the first day of April, except when found in the lawful enclosure of the taker-up.

Any person taking up a stray, must immediately advertise the same by posting three written notices in as many places in the township, giving a correct description of such stray.

If an animal liable to be taken, shall come upon the premises of any person, and he fails to take it up, and is notified in writing of the fact, any other citizen and householder may take up the same.

Not immediately advertise the same by posting three written notices in as many places in the township, giving a correct description of such stray.

If such stray is not proven up at the expiration of ten days, the taker-up shall go before any Justice of the Peace of the township, and file an affidavit stating that such stray was taken up on his premises, that he did not drive nor take it up, and that he has advertised it for ten days, that the notice has not been complied with, and that he shall give a full description of the same and its cash value, and also give a bond to the state of double the value of such stray.

The Justice of the Peace shall within twenty days from the time the affidavit is filed, and after all costs of taking up and return to the County Clerk, a certified copy of the description and value of such stray.

At the expiration of the time, before the Justice of the Peace, the owner of the stray, summons to be served by the taker up, said Justice, or two of them shall in all respects prove the same to be the stray, and make a sworn return of the same to the Justice.

They shall also determine the cost of keeping, and the benefits the taker up may have, and report the same to the Justice.

In all cases where the title vests in the taker-up, he shall pay to the owner of the stray, all costs of taking up, posting and taking care of, one-half of the remainder of the value of such stray.

Any person who shall sell or dispose of a stray, or take the same out of the state before the title shall have vested in him shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall forfeit double the value of such stray, and be subject to a fine of twenty dollars.

Strays for the week ending December 8.

Bourbon county—L. B. Welch, clerk.
COLT—Taken up by Margaret Beckford, Osage tp, on the 10th day of November, 1880, one bay horse colt with black mane and tail, supposed to be one year old last spring, valued at \$25.

COV—Taken up by Fred Rayless, Marion tp, on the 12th day of November, 1880, one bay horse colt with black mane and tail, supposed to be one year old last spring, valued at \$25.

COV—Taken up by J. N. Crouch, Marion tp, on the 12th day of November, 1880, one dark and white spotted steer, two years old, branded with letter H on right ear, and valued at \$15.

STEER—Taken up by Wm T Stevens, Marion tp, on the 8th day of November 1880, one dark roan steer one year old, pastured with square crop of the left ear and valued at \$15.

STEER—Taken up by J. N. Crouch, Marion tp, on the 12th day of November, 1880, one dark and white spotted steer, two years old, branded with letter H on right ear, and valued at \$15.

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one on left hip, marked with under M in left ear, valued at \$20.

STEER—Taken up by C. E. Meyers, Cedar tp, Nov. 13, 1880, one two year old steer, white neck, belly and a few white sides, horns a little drooped, valued at \$25.

HEIFER—Taken up by J. H. Kierland, Cedar tp, Nov. 15, 1880, one light roan horse colt 2 years old, no marks or brands, valued at \$14.

Labette county—W. H. Kierland, clerk.
COLT—Taken up by C. E. Meyers, Cedar tp, Nov. 13, 1880, one two year old steer, white neck, belly and a few white sides, horns a little drooped, valued at \$25.

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HEIFER—Taken up by J. H. Kierland, Cedar tp, Nov. 15, 1880, one light roan horse colt 2 years old, no marks or brands, valued at \$14.

both ears, valued at \$20.

COV—Taken up on the 1st day of November 1880, by C. D. Cox, Sarcoxie, one roan and white spotted five year old cow with white calf by her side, valued at \$25.

HEIFER—Taken up on the 1st day of November 1880, by Wm Petty, Rural tp, one small roan cow, 1 1/2 years old, 13 1/2 hands high, star in forehead, white on end of nose, and valued at \$20.

STEER—Taken up on the 1st day of November 1880, by John Steffes, Jefferson tp, one white steer 2 years old, red ears, swallow fork in left ear, crop of right ear, branded J P on both horns, valued at \$18.

COV—Taken up on the 1st day of November 1880, by W. H. Harvey, Jefferson tp, one white pony, 2 years old, 13 1/2 hands high, star in forehead, white on end of nose, and valued at \$20.

MARE—Taken up on the 2nd day of November 1880, by J. H. Miller, Norton tp, one dark bay mare 6 years old star in forehead, shorn on front face, valued at \$40.

Johnson county—Frank Hantton, clerk.
STEER—Taken up by S. G. Eder, three miles north of Aubrey, Nov. 12, 1880, one white and red steer one year old, in forehead, wide horns, branded on left hip with letter O, valued at \$15.

MARE—Taken up by Malty Cope, two miles north of Aubrey, Nov. 16, 1880, one grey mare about 12 or 15 years old, looks as though she has been branded on left shoulder with an inverted letter A, about 14 hands high, bluish in right eye, shod all around, valued at \$20.

MARE—Taken up by David Cope, five miles southeast of Shawnee, Oct. 21, 1880, one mare 4 or 5 years old, about 15 hands high, star in forehead, both hind feet white, scar on right fore leg above the knee, no other marks or brands perceptible, valued at \$20.

HORSE—Taken up by J. H. Schrader, four and a half miles southeast of Shawnee, Nov. 12, 1880, one black horse 6 or 7 years old about 14 1/2 hands high with collar and saddle marks, shod all around, no other marks or brands perceptible, valued at \$25.

COV—Taken up by Amos Poland, Shawnee tp, November 12, 1880, one brindle cow 8 or 9 years old, crop of each ear and under bit in left ear, valued at \$15.

HEIFER—Taken up by the same one year old red and white heifer, valued at \$15.

Leavenworth county—J. W. Niehaus, clerk.
STEER—Taken up by Matt Calvert, High Prairie tp, Nov. 8, 1880, one yearling red steer, one white and one hind foot in left ear, no other marks or brands perceptible, valued at \$15.

STEER—Taken up by S. B. Buxton, High Prairie tp, Nov. 8, 1880, one yearling steer, some white on the belly, branded with a heart on left ear, no other marks or brands perceptible, valued at \$12.

COLT—Taken up by James P. Seever, Sherman tp, Nov. 10, 1880, one colt 2 years old, white, some white on the hind foot, valued at \$12.

COLT—Taken up by the same one year old colt, some white in forehead, valued at \$12