

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER



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"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,
AN ORIGINAL WEEKLY
RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.
CONDUCTED BY D. D. T. MOORE.
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THE RURAL NEW-YORKER is designed to be unsurpassed in Value, Purity, and Variety of Contents, and unique and beautiful in Appearance. Its Conductor devotes his personal attention to the supervision of its various departments, and earnestly labors to render the RURAL an eminently Reliable Guide on all the important Practical, Scientific and other Subjects intimately connected with the business of those whose interests it zealously advocates. As a FAMILY JOURNAL it is eminently instructive and entertaining—being so conducted that it can be safely taken to the Homes of people of intelligence, taste and discrimination. It embraces more Agricultural, Horticultural, Scientific, Educational, Literary and News Matter, interspersed with appropriate Engravings, than any other Journal, rendering it the most complete AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER in America.

Agricultural.

CURRENT TOPICS DISCUSSED.

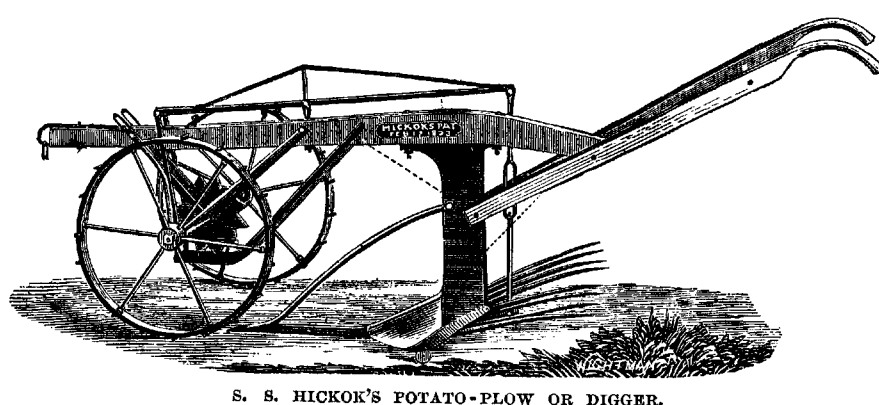
Keep the Weeds Under.

C. W. TURNER, of Massachusetts, sends us an article under the above title. We know there are many good farmers who are impatient under such advice; and yet the topic is timely and important. Labor may be scarce, but the horse-hoe and cultivator should be kept going. The importance of attacking the weeds early cannot be too strongly urged—the economy of doing so is a big item. But read what our correspondent says:

"The farmer has an enemy, silent, yet creeping, spreading, working its way onward and upward,—hard to subdue, harder still to conquer, and almost impossible to annihilate. This enemy is the army of weeds which infests our land, sucking up the very energy of the soil, and flourishing amidst the poverty it incurs. This enemy ought and must be kept under—humbled, laid prostrate with the ground. The surest way to effect this, is to begin early, now, before it gets a sure and strong hold. Attacked in its tenderness, under a wilding sun, it soon dies.

"Come, farmers, one and all; come with plow and cultivator, with hoe and rake, bush or anything destructive to the common pest. Let us have a determined, inflexible purpose to keep under this foe to our improvement and prosperity! Economy urges us to commence now, while the weeds are tender and small. Experience teaches, that one day's active labor now is worth three or four when the roots are strong and stubborn. Take the garden, for an example, brush it over often, it is done with ease,—the plants are thriving and refreshed. The garden is beautiful in its fertility. But let it become a mass of luxuriant weeds, and days must be spent to clean it. Some of the plants are slender and sickly, others uprooted and broken. It is, in a measure, so with field crops. Then there is the aftercrop. Often is the grain backed and choked by the powerful weeds. Frequently it might have been bound and stored 'in good order,' were it not for the growth of juicy weeds cut with it. It must necessarily remain unsheltered in the storm, or be put in to come out injured and smoky. The grass seed is often choked, and brings in poor returns.

"It is clear to my mind, that the future crops and the farmers' profits, are equally affected by allowing weeds to ripen and encumber the ground. To illustrate:—Take two fields of potatoes. One is hoed once or twice hurriedly, then springs up a thrifty yield of weeds. Before digging the potatoes the vines are overtopped. I have seen it necessary to mow the weeds before digging. Then the slow, hard toil of securing the crop, and the inferior yield generally. If a grain crop follows, it will be, most likely, as above described. The other field is well planted, and thoroughly hoed, three times if necessary, even if it costs a few dollars extra. The money will be amply refunded in digging, yield of potatoes, and subsequent crops, even four-fold, unless I am greatly mistaken. If scattering weeds spring up before maturity, they are pulled and burned, or destroyed in some way. The men dig in the mellow soil



S. S. HICKOK'S POTATO-PLOW OR DIGGER.

with ease and comfort,—the vines are drawn off to swell the manure heap. When the rye is sown, it springs up with a broad leaf—quickly covers the ground—resists the winter better—the grass seed 'takes well' in spring—the rye is plump and free from weeds,—a good yield of grass succeeds, and so on. I have seen just such instances. Possibly results are more marked here, on light soils, than on richer western lands. Although so evident, through carelessness, or calculated economy, failing to hire necessary labor, we see many such farms growing poorer yearly, whereas they ought and might be improving. Improvement should be the farmer's watchword in everything. But this is a subject in itself.

"As has been before observed, if we wish, or intend to master the weeds, we must begin now, and keep up a constant and persevering warfare of extermination, embracing every opportunity even into August. One used to the hoe well knows that he can hoe over four square rods of ground as quickly and with much more ease and comfort when the weeds are just standing, than he can ten feet square, when their roots are well set. Then, too, it can be done in dull weather, at least to much better advantage. These things are so evident that they seem simple to mention; still, some men do not seem to appreciate them.

"I have often passed the fields of a neighbor who kept a large nursery of trees, plants, root crops, &c. As he did not labor himself, all the work was necessarily employed. Instead of hiring early, he possibly laid out more work than his help could do; at all events, when the seeds were thick, and going to seed, perhaps, he would bring in, of necessity, a number of extra hands. They soon get tired—the hoeing goes slow—the weeds revive, unless very sunny. In fact, the weeds gain a triumph. The land and the man are both subdued.

I know it will cost labor and diligence. The garden must be seen to,—the strawberries weeded,—the onions kept clean, &c., &c. However, will it not pay, in return, and in the satisfaction of seeing things well done? Possibly it may be well to sit down in winter, and, like a wise 'master builder,' make calculations how much we can do, and do it well—allowing for rainy days, &c., and then, with help divine, faithfully perform it."

Sow Buckwheat.

FARMERS, the crops—the bread crops—of the country are seriously injured by the drouth. There is no doubt about it whatever. There has not been a season in many years when there was so little food material in the hands of farmers and in store in the hands of dealers the first day of July, as on the 1st of July, 1864. We have seen, during the past week, oats heading out scarce six inches above the ground. Wheat has grown little for weeks, and the crop is without any doubt short. Grass in many localities is dying of thirst—timothy heads look as if the grub was at work at the roots, and yet we find no grubs at work. It is drouth that has furnished the plant. From all parts of this State is there complaint. A letter from Western Pennsylvania says:—"The drouth is alarming. We fear rain now will not save us a crop of spring grain." From Wisconsin the tidings are disheartening, if one-tenth is true that is written us. A letter dated the 20th of June asserted that corn which had been planted five weeks had not sprouted!

Now, we are no alarmist, and have no fellowship with croakers. But knowing the extraordinary waste—to say nothing of legitimate consumption—of this war, the decrease in production occasioned by the withdrawal of producers from the fields that feed to the fields of blood, we regard it as a matter of serious concern that

our food crop is being shortened, and yet to run the gauntlet of three months' changes and vicissitudes of the season.

There is time to mature substitutes for what is lost, to a certain extent. Buckwheat is one and an important substitute, as a bread crop. It is a healthful food, notwithstanding the prejudices against it. It is growing more and more popular as a winter food. Sow it. It cannot be got in the ground too soon—nor too much of it. It will pay to sow it if it escapes early frost. It will pay as well as wheat. In most of the large markets its flour retailed last winter quite as high as wheat flour. Do not fear that there will be no demand for it. Sow it if you have an acre you can prepare for it.

S. S. Hickok's Potato-Plow or Digger.

WE give herewith an illustration affording a side view of this new digger. We have seen a model of it, which has impressed us favorably. It not only lifts the potatoes out of the soil, but by its vibrating prongs sifts the earth out and leaves the potatoes on the surface, and the soil in a finely pulverized condition. These vibrating prongs are attached to an upright rod, which passes through the beam, connecting with the lever above the beam, the forward end of which is attached to two small flat bars which pass down each side of the beam, connecting the upper with the under lever, which comes in contact with the cam, or notched wheel, which is keyed on to the axle-tree of the side wheels directly under the beam, which, when in motion, gives vibration to the prongs. The prongs may be raised or lowered by changing the pin to a different hole in the upright rod above the beam, where it connects with the lever. The depth of furrow is regulated by a slot in each of the forward braces, by means of which the wheels may be raised or lowered to suit the depth of potatoes, so as not cut them. When any change is made in the wheels the under lever must be changed also, so that the cam will have its proper effect upon the vibrating prongs, which is done by changing the bolt which connects the upper with the under lever.

This engraving and the above description will furnish answers to sundry inquiries on this subject already received and published. For further particulars, see advertisement in another column.

Soak Basswood or Linden.

EDWIN EWER, of Macedon Center, came into our office the other day with long, strong strips of the inner bark of the basswood in his hand, and said he thought it would be well to suggest to farmers who have plenty of this beautiful tree growing, that now is the time to put the bark a-soak, and thereby secure a strong, smooth, useful fiber for tying up grape vines, tying bags and for use in other places instead of twine or cord, which is now quite costly. The suggestion is a good one and timely, and we thanked our friend for reminding us of it. The way to do this is to peel the basswood of its bark, and put the bark into a pool or stream, putting weights on it to keep it under water. In four to six weeks the inner bark will be loosened and easily peeled from the outer. Then hang it up in the sun and let it dry. The fiber thus obtained is very useful. Mr. EWER said his women-folk had suggested using this fiber for filling for carpets—as a substitute for rags. We do not know how it would wear, but should think it would make a pleasant summer covering for floors. Now let us suggest that our readers will gratify us if they make other economical suggestions, and thereby render each other service. Each one of our hundreds of thousands of readers can say something that will profit somebody else. Such interchange will benefit all.

GLEANINGS IN READING.

Salting Hay.—There is a good deal of testimony from farmers in circulation against the practice of salting hay as it goes into the mow, because it renders the hay moist, and is not a preservative. What do the practical farmers think about it? There is no doubt that there may be too much salt put on hay; but it by no means follows that a reasonable quantity will not be of benefit rather than damage.

Curing Corn Fodder by Artificial Heat.—The Maine Farmer suggests that the difficulty of curing sowed corn for forage be remedied by curing it in kilns as hops are cured. We do not think it would pay; and we think it unnecessary. It is better to stack it out in small stacks, if that is the only way in which it can be preserved. But we have seen it preserved in airy lofts in the barn, successfully.

Covered Manures.—A late number of the Journal of Agriculture contains a statement of the result of an experiment made to determine the relative value of manure made under cover, and that exposed in the barnyard. Both manures were applied to potatoes in equal quantities. The yield on equal portions of land was as follows:—Manure from barnyard, 252 bushels per acre; manure made under cover, 207 bushels per acre.

The Brahma Fowls.—The Maine Farmer says:—"A farmer in Massachusetts who has had experience in keeping poultry of different breeds, and upon a somewhat extensive scale, has decided in favor of the Brahmas. He says, 'they surpass in laying qualities, and for the market, any breed of fowls he has ever kept.' This opinion also corresponds with that of many parties in this city and elsewhere who have given them a fair trial."

Bedding Cows with Sand.—At the State Alms House, Mass., the manager of the farm beds his cows regularly with sand, which he considers superior to any other substance for that purpose. It is warm, easy to lie upon, prevents the cows from slipping when reaching for food, is an excellent absorbent of liquids, easily shoveled in and out, a superior divisor of droppings, and is an excellent substance to supply to cold lands. For these reasons he likes sand for bedding.

Action of Plaster.—The editor of the Canada Farmer says:—"It furnishes two elements of plant food, lime and sulphur, and also fixes the ammonia of the atmosphere, and husbands it for the future use of the plants. It acts chiefly through the leaves of the plants to which it is applied, and should be scattered in the shape of fine powder while the dew of morning or evening is on the plants, that it may stick. It should not, however, be applied in rainy weather." We should not hesitate to apply it at any time of day in dry weather. Just previous to a rain is the best time to select.

Clover Hay.—The New England Farmer says: Clover hay is not generally considered so good for horses as timothy and red top. Such, however, is not our opinion. We believe that clover, when properly managed, makes the best hay for any stock, that we produce, and is less exhausting to the soil than the production of most grasses. It not only makes up the variety necessary to keep cattle in health, but its yield is large and profitable; it takes less from the soil and more from the atmosphere, than most other green crops, and the portion remaining in the soil contains material to improve its mechanical condition, so as to progress the organic constituents which it elevates from the subsoil after subsoil plowing, and is almost sure of success on any soil worthy of cultivation.

The Sex of Eggs.—A correspondent of the Aroostook Pioneer writes:—Perhaps some of your readers will be benefitted by knowing that an egg placed under a setting hen for some two days and then exposed to a strong light by being held to an aperture through some opaque substance, so as to place the egg between the light and the eye, will exhibit lines of blood, if it is not added. At a later period the egg becomes opaque, and, of course, can not be tested in this way. When I had the care of hens I used to place simply a nest egg under a setting hen until three hens were wishing to set at the same time. Placing eggs under each at the same time, in due season I tested them as above described, and took away the poor eggs, placing the good ones under one or two hens, thus securing a large number of chickens from each hen that was permitted to spend her time in setting and brooding chickens.



SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

EDITED BY HENRY S. RANDALL, LL. D.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Mr. RANDALL'S address is Cortland Village, Cortland Co., N. Y. All communications intended for this Department, and all inquiries relating to sheep, should be addressed to him as above.

SHEEP WORK IN JULY.

THE sheep are now shorn, registered, marked, etc. Before they are to be considered prepared for summering, the following processes should be performed:

CUTTING THE HOOFS.—All Merino flocks require to have their hoofs pared at least once a year, though their feet may be perfectly sound. Otherwise, their long, turned-up and turned-under hoofs collect filth—give the sheep a hobbling gait—and present an unsightly and unfarmer-like appearance. The hoofs cut far easier after a period of rainy weather. The long toes should be shortened as much as is practicable without drawing blood, and the soles thinned in the same proportion. The best instrument we have seen for the first named operation is the following:



TOE-NIPPERS.

AS these are sometimes necessarily used when the hoofs are dry and tough, they must be made very strong. The handles should be about twenty inches long and the rivet half an inch in diameter. The cutting blade is made from two to two and a half inches wide and descends upon a strip of copper. These nippers have not found a place in commerce, but can be made to order by any blacksmith capable of tempering an edge-tool. With these, a sharp knife, and a little experience, the labor we are describing is a brief one. Care should be taken to preserve the natural bearing of the foot—not lowering the toe, or heel, or either side, so as to throw the weight on any part improperly.

SHORTENING HORNS, ETC.—If the horns of rams press on any part of the head or neck their inner sides should be removed by a saw. Ewes' horns which threaten to grow into the head should be sawed off, if small, close to the head—if large, as near the head as may be, without causing a large effusion of blood. A butchers' bow-saw is the best one for these purposes. It is becoming customary to twist off the horns of ewe lambs before they attain much size. Very little blood flows, and the operation appears to cause far less pain than docking.

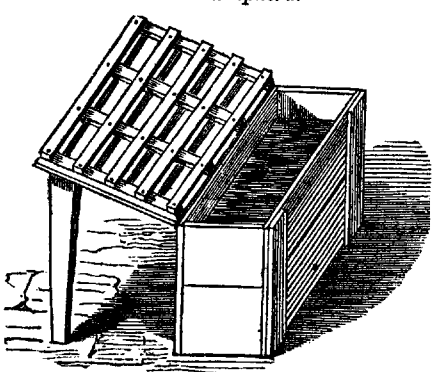
PREVENTING MAGGOTS.—On the densely coated Merino, when not sheared before hot weather, it is not uncommon to find, say, one sheep in a hundred with maggots under the wool where it has been kept wet and foul—generally about the vent or on the thighs. If they have not penetrated through the skin, carefully scraping them off and covering the part first with turpentine and subsequently with tar, is usually sufficient. But if they have burrowed into the flesh, the sheep should again be looked to within a couple of days at farthest—for the progress of these destroyers is signally rapid.

If rams fight (as they are apt to do immediately after shearing) and break the skin on their heads, maggots will soon be found about the roots of the horns—particularly when the latter press on the head, or when the narrow space between is left filled with wool. It is very well to smear the head back of the horns, at shearing, with tar softened with turpentine, in a strip say an inch in breadth. Those kinds of fish oil which repel the approach of flies would be still better. Rams, if kept together in numbers in July and August, require constant looking to in this particular. In the place of turpentine, some persons apply spirit of tar where maggots have been generated—others corrosive sublimate. The latter is dissolved in alcohol, and if the worms have penetrated deep and produced a very foul ulcer, it is more efficient than turpentine.

SEPARATING RAMS.—Rams ought not to run with ewes through the winter—but where this has been permitted, they should at least be sepa-

rated, and effectually separated from them at shearing—i. e., placed in enclosures having fences which are good enough to discourage all attempts to escape.

KILLING TICKS.—Lambs should be dipped in some tick-killing solution, within a fortnight after shearing.

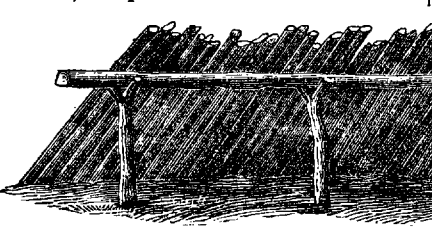


DIPPING BOX.

One man seizes the lamb (turned with its back down) by the fore-legs, and places the other hand around the nose, so that none of the fluid can enter the mouth or nostrils.

WATER IN PASTURES.—We have already insisted that this is a point of the highest importance—that it ought to be regarded as indispensable—in the case of ewes suckling lambs; and there is no doubt that it is vastly better for all sheep.

SHADE IN PASTURES.—This, like the preceding, is very important for nursing ewes, and very advantageous for all other sheep.



A SHED OF POLES.

Before this rotted away, suitable clumps of well protected trees, set out on knolls, would be large enough to afford the requisite shade.

SALT IN SUMMER.—Sheep should be regularly salted as much as they will eat, once or twice a week throughout summer, or else have salt kept constantly accessible to them.

SULPHUR, ALUM, &c., &c.—Some people mix these and other drugs, with salt, "to keep the sheep healthy." Carrying coals to New Castle, salt to Dysart, or performing any other work of utter supererogation, is not, in our opinion, more absurd than "doctoring" an animal in perfect health, and exposed to no unhealthy influences, in order to guard against some special disease, or against diseases in general.

work, there is a legitimate mode of prevention. It consists in removing the sheep, or in removing or neutralizing those causes. If land is too wet, for example, for sheep, it is "sound practice" to drain it.

A healthy sheep requires nothing internally but proper food, drink and salt. Salt is a condiment as much adapted to its instinctive appetite and desires, as is its food.

CONDENSED CORRESPONDENCE, MINOR ITEMS, &c.

SHEEP SONGS.—We have received four. "The Sheep on the Hill Side," by "A Farmer's Daughter," contains pleasing ideas expressed in pleasing lines, but is unequal in its parts.

We heartily wish we could clothe our rejection of these kindly meant offerings in words so gentle that they would fall to wound. But that we fear is impossible. We have tasted of the same Marsh. Once when about as old as O. A. M. we made an attempt to "wreak our thought" upon poetical "expression."

Yet why should a failure in a department of literature which demands the highest genius or the most cultivated art—in reality, a strong mixture of both—cause such intense mortification to young and comparatively inexperienced writers? What right have they to expect to succeed on the first or the twentieth trial?

Don't let us despair of a Sheep Song yet—perhaps of half a score of them! Virgil's Eclogues and Georgics, and many an old English pastoral, prove that the subject is a poetical one. "The hour will come, and the man (or woman) will come," by-and-by. Meanwhile let all who fancy they feel the inspiration, put its genuineness to the test.

SCROFULA, &c.—A. WATROUS, of Fairfield, Iowa, thus describes, May 10th, a disease which has appeared in his flock:—"The first thing to be discovered is a slight swelling on the side of the under jaw, (one or both), which soon extends all around the head as far back as the ears, and on making an incision through the skin presents the appearance of putrid jelly, as it caused by a bruise; the sheep loses all use of her limbs, and dies within thirty-six hours.

We have never witnessed this, or any analogous disease in sheep, and should like to receive further information on the subject. The description of Mr. WATROUS calls to mind Professor FINLAY DUN'S account of an occasional manifestation of scrofula—though we are not inclined to think that the cases are identical. He says:—"When a scrofulous constitution presents itself prominently in an adult sheep, it is generally in the form of a pulmonary consumption."

TOE NIPPERS.—I. W. PARK, of Dodge's Corners, Wisconsin, inquires where the kind of toe-nippers described in the Practical Shepherd can be procured. We have never seen any but those made to order by a blacksmith.

Communications, Etc.

RAISING AND CURING SOWED CORN.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Having been successful in growing and curing sowed corn for several years, I will send you my method. First, I sow as early in June as I can, about five bushels of shelled corn per acre.

When ready to cut, I take a corn knife and step into the corn to where I want a shock to stand, and take a few stalks from four different ways, pull the tops together and tie them to hold up the shock.

Be sure to let it stand until late in the fall before binding or it will heat. J. C. Raisin, Mich., 1864.

TO CURE A KICKING COW.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—They say no one knows so little but what something can be learned from him; so I thought I would give my remedy for a kicking cow. First, secure her; if in the stable, all the better; if out of doors, by a three-cornered pen made of boards; in either case, secure her so that she cannot move forward; then place a bar or pole (by boring holes through boards secured on each side) across her back just forward of her hips; if it causes her to crouch down a little, all the better.

REMARKS.—Would it not be well for A. M. to secure a patent for his process? A friend at our elbow suggests that it might be an improvement to place the legs of a cow in masonry, cemented with water lime. Seriously, we think a strap over the knee of the animal the most effectual and simplest preventive of kicking. There are few animals that are not easily tamed by such means, combined with gentle, kind usage.

THE BEST DOMESTIC FOWLS.

The Black Spanish and Speckled Dorking are the two most popular fowls in England. The Andalusian is a bird of one color, of a light blue feather—in every other respect resembles the Black Spanish, with white skin and flesh, long lead-colored legs, producing very large, white eggs. The hen is not inclined to sit. The cock carries the same stylish, high, single comb as the Black Spanish; in fact, I consider them of the same pedigree—all descendants from one stock.

In 1853, I purchased of THOS. H. FOX, 44 Skinner street, London, several of his Black Spanish, at high prices. That year, his birds were on exhibition at several poultry shows throughout Great Britain. He took seventeen first prizes on his Black Spanish. The prize cock he sold for \$400. The same winter I purchased a trio of the Andalusians of Her Majesty, the Queen. The original stock were presented VICTORIA by EARL DERBY. At the same time I bought several other birds, paying as high as £18 for one pair. One hen, chick of ten months' growth, weighed ten pounds, down weight.

The true English Speckled Dorkings are large, and the most noble, graceful and handsome feathered birds of the hen species. They are good layers and careful sitters. Their eggs are of the common size, white shell and rich meat; their skin and flesh white, and of the finest of flavor. Birds bearing yellow legs and skin are never exhibited at their great poultry shows.

At the Smithfield exhibition, London, I purchased a trio of Speckled Dorkings of W. FISHER HOBBS, Boxed Lodge, Essex, for which I paid twenty-six guineas, (\$130). He exhibited several trios of the same class and beauty, for which he took the highest awards, and sold each trio at the same price. One coop was purchased for the Queen, who employed HARRISON WIER, the celebrated bird painter, to make a life size picture of them, for which Her Majesty paid him £100. I sought his skill in putting on to the block for the engraver, delineations of several of my birds, which I intended should have graced the pages of our American journals; but unfortunately the person in charge lost them on his way home.

Stock fanciers visiting England, should make a trip to "Shaw Farm," about three-fourths of a mile beyond Windsor Castle. WILLIAM WILSON, Esq., the overseer, said I was the only American gentleman who had inspected the neat stock and farm up to that date, during his administration of some two years, though many visited the castle and stud of fine draft and coach horses, &c.

At the time set for selecting pigs and poultry at "Shaw Farm," the Queen, and His Royal Highness, Prince ALBERT, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and young VICTORIA, walked down, with a desire, in part, perhaps, to meet the "Live Yankee" customers, who repeatedly expressed themselves highly pleased to know that some of their fine stock was going out to New England. S. W. JEWETT. California, 1864.

CONDENSED CORRESPONDENCE.

Scare Crows.

IN response to an inquiry by E. M. P. in a recent RURAL, we have the following, which, though late for this season, we place on record: S. B. J., of Kingston, writes:—"Take three common steel traps—fox or rat traps—set them on the angles of a triangle—just far enough apart to put in half a dozen rotten eggs inside the triangle. Cover the traps with fine dirt or sand, having the traps elevated above the eggs. I think the punishment the one gets that gets into the trap will keep the rest away."

A. McD., of Orleans Co., N. Y., writes us that he raises black fowls which he hangs in his corn field—three to eight acres—and is not troubled by the crows.

A. J. G., of Benson, Vt., writes that as soon as the corn began to come up, he covered two steel traps nicely with dirt, staked them down strong and sprinkled corn over them. He adds: "The next morning I had one of the black thrushes. I took a strong cord and tied his legs to a stake. He soon commenced cawing, and in a short time had most of the crows in the neighborhood flying over him. They took up the caw; and in a short time I had caw-music enough. They soon deserted him, and although I sprinkled corn tamptingly over the traps, no crows came near. The plan was a success."

Relative Weights of Water, Milk, Cream, &c.

S. S. O., Deer River, N. Y., writes us:—"Conversing, a few days since, with a practical farmer—one whose large fields are among the best of our State—in regard to the weight of water and milk, rich milk and poor milk, butter and water, cream and skimmed milk, he affirmed that milk was heavier than water, rich milk heavier than poor milk, cream heavier than skimmed milk, and that common oils were heavier than water, all of which is contrary to my experience and education. I therefore submit these questions to you, or your numerous readers, for conclusive answers."

There is one way to decide all such questions, and that is by actual test; and it is such a simple matter to test it where one has the material, that we do not know why there should be any discussion about it. Without actually knowing by test, it would be our opinion that the practical farmer is right.

A Lice Exterminator.

O. T. HOBBS:—"Lice on trees, lice on cattle, lice on anything, lice on everything, will 'vamoose' on application of Seneca (petroleum) oil. On bodies and limbs of trees use pure oil; on cattle, &c., dilute with milk. How many inquiries will be made about 'lice' during the next year? Don't answer any one till they try the only safe and reliable remedy known."

Inquiries and Answers.

BUYING BEES.—I wish to ask of A. H. HART, of Calumet Co., Wis., his manner of buying bees, spoken of in RURAL of June 18th.—A. B. C., Westfield, N. Y.

UNION SEWING MACHINE.—If D. M., of Kansas, will turn to page 158, current volume RURAL, he will find an answer to his question concerning this machine.

PEOPLE'S COLLEGE.—(W. M., Earlville, N. Y.) Address Hon. CHAS. COOK, Havana, N. Y., or Rev. AMOS BROWN, LL. D., at the same place, for the information you desire.

N. Y. COMMISSION MERCHANTS.—S. PETTIT, of North East, Pa., writes in response to the inquiry of E. J. BAKER, page 198, that his opinion and experience is, that the less Mr. BAKER has to do with New York Commission Merchants, the better for him.

BEES SWARMING.—Will Mr. QUINBY, of this State, or some experienced bee-keeper say how often bees swarm—whether first swarms swarm the same season again?—A. B. C., Westfield, N. Y.

First swarms do sometimes swarm the same season. We have known such instances.

"A DRIVE GATE."—(S. C. B., Syracuse, N. Y.) We do not know, "of our own knowledge," whether there be a "drive gate" in use that will open when the horse steps upon the platform connected with it, and close of itself after the horse passes through it. We have seen models of such gates, but never saw one in use; neither do we know where they are manufactured.

WASHING MACHINES AND WRINGERS.—Wishing to purchase a good washing machine and wringer, the best there is in use if possible, can you recommend either one that is advertised in your paper?—A. SUBSCRIBER, Wateland, Shawnee Co., Kansas.

We know that the Universal Wringer is an excellent machine, and have no doubt that the Champion will give satisfaction; but the latter has never been used in our family. Of washing machines per se we know nothing.

TO REMOVE FILMS FROM HORSES' EYES.—What is the best thing with which to remove a film from a horse's eye, caused by an injury received going through bushes?—J. H. H., Chaut. Co.

We advise you to call a skillful Veterinary Surgeon, if there be one near, and your horse is a valuable one. As a rule it is much cheaper and safer than to apply prescriptions given without any knowledge of the character or extent of the injury to the eye. But if compelled to treat your horse yourself, buy MAYHEW'S Horee Doctor, price \$3.50, or DADD'S, price \$1.50, and study them carefully.

TAR MANUFACTURE.—I wish to inquire if any reader of the RURAL can tell us the process of making tar. I have a plenty of pine pitch, and being a flock-master, and consequently using a good deal of tar, and it being very high, I should like to make my own.—A. B. C., Westfield, N. Y.

Tar is made from blocks of pitch pine, roots of fir trees, &c. It is arranged in a conical stack, much as you arrange wood for burning charcoal—fitted to a cavity in the ground generally made in the side of a bank. In the bottom of this cavity is placed a cast-iron pan from which a spout leads out through the bank. The heap is covered over with turf or sod, and is then fired as in making charcoal. Tar collects in the latter part of the charring process, and runs off into barrels placed to receive it. Tar is seldom obtained in quantities sufficient to render it an object except in charring the resinous woods of the pine family.

Rural Notes and Items.

WEATHER, CROPS, &c.—The weather of the past week has generally been favorable to the growing crops. On the evening of July 1st there was a copious shower here, and on the following day considerable rain fell in the eastern part of New York and New England. Such is especially true of Connecticut, as we can testify from personal observation during a trip from New York to New Haven and vicinity on Saturday. The effects of the recent drouth are apparent, however, in most sections of the country, both East and West, and we continue to receive doleful letters on the subject. But our latest advices speak more cheerfully in regard to "the situation" of farmers, and crop prospects; and hence our report is favorable.

CROP PROSPECTS.—Official Reports.—A Washington paper gives the following summary of the forthcoming reports of the Department of Agriculture on the Condition of the Crops in June:

Apples.—A good crop in the Eastern and Middle States, but not good in the Western, much of the bloom having fallen off without setting the fruit.

Grapes.—In the Eastern States the crop promises well; in the Western it is almost totally destroyed, with many of the trees.

Wheat (Winter).—The growing condition of the crop is most excellent, except in Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota, where drouth has prevailed, and in one or two other localities, but it was severely injured by the cold of last February, when there was but little snow on the ground. The general injury from this cause is estimated at not less than thirty per cent. As the time approaches for harvesting this crop in the Eastern and Middle States, however, bids fair to be a superior one.

Spring Wheat.—In amount this crop is not quite an average, on account of the lateness of the spring and the scarcity of labor; but it is in a very favorable growing condition.

Corn.—The lateness of the spring kept back planting, but the wet, warm weather has brought this crop forward very rapidly, and it promises well at this time. It is nearly an average crop in the number of acres planted, many injured wheat fields having been put into corn.

Oats.—Universally spoken of as the largest and most promising crop of the kind ever sown in our country.

Clover and the Grasses.—These are in excellent condition, and the expectation is that the hay crop will be unusually large.

Sheep.—The condition of this important stock is very good, for it received the best of care. The increase per cent. is equal to that of last year.

THE ADVANCED RATES OF THE RURAL (from 1st inst.) are cordially accepted, as just and proper, by both agents and subscribers, so far as ascertained. Indeed, some admit that the new rates are too low, as they certainly are, considering the prices of provisions, and goods, wares and merchandise generally. But we shall endeavor to stand by our terms, in the hope of a change ere long in price of paper, etc., so that we may another year realize some profit. The single and club subscriptions coming in at new rates look well, but we should prefer the old terms at the former cost of publishing the RURAL.—Those remitting for the paper should observe the PRESENT subscription rates.

TAPPANNOCK WHITE WHEAT.—Some days ago WILLIAM HODGES, Esq., of Brighton, this county, left at RURAL office, several heads of the above named variety of wheat grown from seed obtained (through Patent Office) from Maryland. It was sown Sept. 10, and harvested on the 2d inst. Grew by the side of Dickinson wheat (as early a variety of white wheat as we have in this region), which was still green and apparently would not ripen in a week or ten days. The label on the package of seed said—"It is earlier than the Blue Stem, and makes first quality flour." The berry is plump and fine, but the heads short. It may prove the long sought desideratum for this region,—time and experimenting will decide. Mr. HODGES has no seed for sale, but thinks very favorably of the variety, and purposes continuing its culture.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF MICH. FOR THE YEAR 1863.—This report is before us. It is made by C. A. KENASTON, Sec'y pro tem. From it we learn that the attention of the Board, the past year, has been mostly devoted to the State Agricultural College. The report discusses the object kept in view by those in charge of the College, which has already been reviewed in our columns; it also contains a brief history of the College, with an appendix embracing the Faculty's Report, Report on the Relations of the Farm and Garden to the Instruction of the College, Chemists' Report, Register of Meteorological Observations, Pedigrees of Stock, and other papers. The volume of 150 pages is a valuable one as illustrating the progress of Agricultural Education and effort in that prosperous State.

CHINCH-BUG IN MARSHALL CO., ILL.—JOHN HEBURN writes:—"The bug is destroying two-thirds of the wheat here in Marshall and La Salle counties. The corn is backward this season." It is not good evidence that two-thirds of the farmers in the counties above named, are neat and tidy in their farm operations. If they were so there would be fewer chinch-bugs. All refuse—corn stalks, stubble, &c.—should be plowed under or burned up in the fall. The grass and weeds should be cleaned away from the fences also. Then there will be fewer bugs the next season.

THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT AND LAND DRAINAGE.—A correspondent of the Canada Farmer proposes that an Act of the Provincial Legislature shall be passed, similar to that existing in England, by which money may be borrowed for permanent farm improvement at a low rate of interest, such loan to have precedence over all other incumbrances, and to be paid off, principal and interest, in 21 years. He urges that the great expense of draining—which he estimates at \$30 per acre—prevents the mass of farmers, attempting it extensively.

TO CURE A HARD MILKER.—I will give you my mode of curing a hard milker. I first take a short strap, lift the cow's right fore-foot, and slip the strap over the knee. Now squeeze the teat gently (to force the lower end of the teat out) with the left hand, while you cut it with the other. The knife should be turned and cut a little from both ways; this will help nine times out of every ten.—S. T., Clockville, Madison Co., N. Y.

WEST POINT CADET.—A Monroe Co. Boy is informed that he should apply direct to Mr. CLARKE, either by letter or personally at once. We have not the rules and regulations of the school, and cannot answer your inquiries in detail. Mr. CLARKE will be able to do so, probably.

TO REMOVE WARTS FROM THE HANDS.—(Mrs. S. V. H.) On page 153, current volume RURAL, we give a remedy. We have been successful in removing them by cutting them off with a sharp knife or razor. They will bleed some, but it is but little inconvenience.

Useful, Scientific, &c.

ATTACUS CECROPIA.

Eds. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—Inclosed in this box I send you a winged animal which I found upon my cherry tree.

THE name of the moth sent us is Attacus Cecropia. And since it belongs to a very interesting family it may gratify our readers, especially the inquirer, if we say more about this family and this particular moth.

This "duck" that our correspondent sends us, is a moth, the name of which stands at the head of this article. It measures near 6 1/2 inches from tip to tip of its wings.

There are few people who would not call this a very big butterfly—who would hardly credit the assertion that it is a moth, and not a butterfly.

There are few of our readers, probably, who have not seen the caterpillar which spins and winds itself up in a cocoon, from which this moth emerges in this "leafy month of June."

We have copied the above description from HARRIS, that our readers may identify and watch the work of this caterpillar with the more interest.

THE inner cocoon were it not for the fluid provided for the purpose of softening the threads; but it easily forces its way through the outer cocoon at the small end, which is more loosely woven than elsewhere.

SUMMER. A. WEBER. Musical score for voice and piano with lyrics: '1. Days of summer glory, Days I love to see, All your scenes so brilliant, And from morn to eve ning'.

Let my mind be ever Bright as yonder sun; Pure as are the breezes Just as night comes on.

Meadows, fields, and mountains, Clothed in shining green; With the rippling fountains, Through the willows seen.

Birds that sweetly warble All the summer days; All things speak in music Their Creator's praise.

War Literature.

Dragoon's Song.

CLASH, clash goes the sabre against my steed's side, Killing, killing go the rowels as onward I ride; And all my bright harness is living and speaks,

"We never Drink."

ON the stage were seven or eight soldiers from the 8th Maine regiment—civil, well behaved intelligent men, as was apparent from their conversation.

Lincoln on Captions People. A GENTLEMAN just returned from Washington relates the following incident that transpired at the White House, the other day.

Grant and Meade. THE headquarters of the Lieut-General and General Meade are always established near each other, and, in action, the two Generals and their staffs are always together.

THE Vulgar Nuisance. MR. MAYOR SLAUGHTER, of Fredericksburg, took himself off to Richmond immediately after Grant moved from the Rapidan.

Reading for the Young.

THE INNER VOICE.

I SAW a little spotted tortoise sunning himself in the shallow water. I lifted the stick in my hand to kill the harmless reptile; for, though I had never killed any creature, yet I had seen other boys, out of sport, destroy birds, squirrels, and the like, and I felt a disposition to follow their wicked example.

THE PRECIOUS LITTLE PLANT.

TWO little girls, Bridget and Walburga, went to the neighboring town, each carrying on her head a heavy basket of fruit to sell for money enough to buy the family dinner.

BE KIND TO YOUR MOTHER.

SHE guarded you when well, and watched over you when sick. She sat by you when fretful, and put cooling drinks to your lips, and spoke soothing words in your ears.

Corner for the Young.

MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 18 letters. My 7, 8, 14, 2, 4 is a fluid. My 8, 9, 14, is a point of the compass.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker. AN ANAGRAM.

HER seerds tapo no rheta ot em SI oehm, wsete mhoo; Ethydull-faar evi dolgen ot ese Saw ehmo, stwee meoh.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker. PROBLEM.

TWO travelers, A and B, set out to meet each other, A leaving C, at the same time that B left D, they travel the direct road and meet 13 miles from the half way point between C and D.

ANSWERS TO ENIGMAS, &c., IN No. 754.

Answer to Enigma:—The Practical Shepherd. Answer to Geographical Enigma:—Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

