FARM AND GARDEN.

SUBJECTS OF GENERAL INTEREST TO AMERICAN AGRICULTURISTS.

Fence Posts Rendered Safe for the Practice of Jugging in Farm Gates. Methods Suggested for Securing Gate Posts from Displacement.

A very common trouble with farm gates is caused by continued pressure exerted against the post by the weight of the gate, producing sagging. The gate then rests on the ground at its latch end, and is dragged over the surface on opening and shutting. Under the rough treatment they soon wear out. It becomes important therefore to secure the post from this displacement. Various modes have been resorted to. Country Gentleman calls attention to the following: Very large posts set in concrete are used by some, and setting them four or five feet deep is adopted by others.

The mode represented in the first figure employs a bar of timber to connect

A GATE THAT WILL NOT SAG.

the two posts, thereby lessening the liability to sag; the timber being buried not a foot or more beneath the hard beaten surface is excluded from the air and does not decay for many years.

A very more certain arrangement is shown in the second figure, where two posts of timber are buried in such a position that the post cannot be moved out of place without pushing those timbers lengwise through the solid earth.

If the earth has been beaten around them so now that can be brought to bear can move them endwise through the soil, and they will operate many times more efficiently in holding the posts from sagging to the right than flat stones placed sidewise, large stones, or pieces of timber with the middle placed against the post.

Gates are very properly classed with other saving implements and machinery by the authority quoted. Some of the kinds and instances are entered many

BETTER A GATE POST SECURELY.

times a day. Some entrances on every farm are passed several times a day during most of the year, and with little labor if good self shutting and self fastening gates are provided. If only ten times a day, and for a hundred days, there would be a thousand passings to be made.

Helpful Hints Concerning Roup.

F. H. Jacobs, of Hammonton, N. J., gives the following helpful hints in American Rural Home:

The best time to handle the disease is when it first makes its appearance, and to prevent its spread the sick birds should be removed from the others. The premises should be thoroughly disinfected, and time roosts scattered over the yard, and the houses well sprinkled with a solution of a tablespoonful of carbolic acid in a pailful of water.

It has been demonstrated that the virus of roup can be destroyed by quicklime and by spirits of turpentine. When whitewashing it would be well to add a teaspoonful of spirits of turpentine to the whitewash.

The drinking vessels should be kept scrupulously clean, and the water be changed twice a day, in each case a teaspoonful of turpentine being added to each gallon of water. With these precautions the roup may be kept away.

The proper way to treat all diseases by giving medicine is in the drinking water, though if only one or two valuable birds are sick they may be treated by hand-feeding. All fowls will drink, even when they will not eat.

Some breeds are more subject to roup than others. Birds with crests, which become water soaked in wet weather, and birds with very tall combs, which become frozed, are liable to roup when they are exposed.

Comb vs. Extracted Honey.

The following query has been answered in The American Bee Journal: "I am thinking of keeping bees, and, desiring to make it a financial success, I would like the opinion of leading apiarists upon the question as to a profitable undertaking, which should be produced in an apiary, comb honey or extracted?"

Four of the nineteen apiarists who replied to the foregoing advised "both and" some stating "that depends." J. H. Hambaugh said: "I am an advocate of extracting as a financial consideration, yet surroundings and location have something to do with it." Dalton de Jon answered: "Extracted, because you can produce more than twice as much, and because you can keep a part of the crop over from years of plenty for years of scarcity."

M. M. Damates said: "It has paid me best to produce both honey in the comb and the extracted article. And further, all my students, or those who started looking under my teaching and advice, have followed my plan of producing both articles, and they all approve of my plan. It pays a beekeeper to be able to satisfy the market, and there is a demand for both comb and extracted honey." The editor replied: "Produce whichever your market demands or your tastes dictate. To produce both would give you greater experience."

Resolved, That during 1891 I will not be smiling in public and snappy at home.

Two good resolutions for the new year. Resolved, That I will not use my temper and that I will not eat too much.

Spring Unloading of Bees.

At the annual meeting of the International Beekeepers' association the question was asked, "Is spring unloading better than to have bees wintered inside than out of doors?" A. I. Root said that when the bees were wintered out of doors and had a chance to fly every month they came out stronger and were better able to go through April. E. R. Root thought that the loss from spring unloading was greater when wintering indoors, as the bees in the cellar were often suffering from the temperature being too hot or too cold—a matter over which the beekeeper had but little control. John Nau said that in severe winters the bees wintered better indoors, in mild winters out of doors. He did not put his bees in the cellar unless the temperature was very low early in the winter. R. M. Argo had wintered both ways for about [illegible] years, and found that they dwindled more when wintered in the cellar. He thought the cause was the lack of proper ventilation in the cellar. He thought the weak bees in condition of the bees wintered in the cellar was due to their ill health, owing to the lack of pure air during the winter. Mr. Root, in speaking of cellars in hard winters cellar wintering could be carried on with less loss than outdoor wintering.

Maintaining the Fertility of the Farm.

In an address before one of the New York farmers' institutes Secretary Woodward had the following to say on maintaining fertility of the soil:

"Barren will not make land. It puts off the calamity of exhaustion. It simply equalizes the ratio of exhaustion. It is said 'village is manure.' Village does not add any manure. It works it out faster. Weeds are better than bare land. Summer fallowing is a very expensive process. I had rather grow weeds and plow them under. It would be better for the land. Bare land loses its ammonia. Now live in the farm to conserve the fertility. Naked earth is a losing earth. How shall we make fertility? We can do it by the purchase of commercial fertilizers; but this system is unsoundly, unless for special crops. Another way is by means of stable manure. 'I have,' Mr. Woodward said, 'borrowed the word barnyard from my vocabulary. A barnyard is a nuisance. My stable manure paid me last winter, by feeding stock, over $1 a load profit over and above all it cost. I buy cottonseed and linseed meal, middlings and bran, and my manure comes from those foods fed to animals. By this system the farm is getting richer all the time."

The Best Quality of Bacon.

The best quality of bacon cannot be made of meat that is not well drained of its blood, says American Agriculturist. Meat that is intended for the best quality of bacon should be thoroughly bled, and butchering, by which act the main artery is cut, does this to the most effectual and quickly way. In ride the meat of the largest percentage of blood, and leaves it in that condition that is best for curing and keeping well.

Bloom is a defect, and a serious one, to much of the ordinary bacon and salt pork of the day. It is not dressed of its blood; in fact, it is no doubt that with most packers to retain the blood in order to have the meat weigh heavier. This practice, opposed as it certainly is to both Scripture and sound hygienic rules, cannot be too severely condemned. The old Jewish law strictly forbids the eating of blood, and doubtless some of the diseases and ills of mankind at the present day might be traced to the blood retained in the flesh when slaughtering.

Unleached Wood Ashes.

Canada unleached wood ashes are usually guaranteed to contain 6 per cent. of potash. As stated by the chemist of the New Jersey experiment station in a bulletin recently issued, the average composition of eleven samples of ashes previously analyzed is: Phosphoric acid, 1.75 per cent.; potash, 5.78 per cent., and lime 32.60 per cent. That ashes are not a uniform product is evident from the variations shown in six other samples by an analysis that is given. The selling price of five of these samples is stated in the bulletin at $18, $15.50, $15, $14 and $13.50 per ton, respectively. But two of the samples were set good on the average, nor is the highest selling price attached to the best sample.

The amount of plant food elements contained in an average sample of ashes, according to the bulletin referred to, can be bought for about $9 per ton. It is the general experience, however, that in certain soils the agricultural effect of the phosphoric acid, potash and lime is greater in wood ashes than in a proportionate mixture of the same elements in other forms. This is believed to be due to the special form of combination of the ingredients in ashes, which, in addition to their direct benefit, exert a favorable mechanical effect upon the soil.

Carrots for Horses.

Carrots contain a smaller proportion of moisture and more nutriment than most other roots. They are good for cows or horses, but seem to be especially adapted for the latter. Horse owners who have the time should grow carrots, and those who have not the proper land should buy enough carrots to give a ration every day through the winter. Give half as many oats as usual, and make up the deficiency with equal bulk of carrots, and meet horse during winter will improve in appearance. The carrots give the animals a sleek coat, probably by helping the digestion. It is a diet of exclusively dry food that makes the hair of animals to stand out in wiry dry and harsh. If the horse is working he will need the full ration of oats, but should be given a ration of carrots instead each day.—American Cultivator.

Feed and Feeding.

American Agriculturist very truly claims that thousands of farmers could make $10 a day by selling corn and buying bran.

Economy of feed is promoted by diminishing the demand for heat. The demand for heat is diminished by shelters from cold air and moisture.

If men who feed fodder on the muddy ground, rear scrubby animals and look on manure as a nuisance, or use the poorest horses, how great, indeed, may be our reward of prosperity.

Resolved, That I won't tell even the smallest kind of a lie to get the better of anybody in business, knowing well that if I do I shall have to pay up for it a hundred fold sooner or later, and probably sooner.

Doggie Understood French.

A tall, well built young man lounged into the Cobbonnets barber shop a day or two ago, closely followed by a shock, intelligent Italian greyhound. The man took his place in a chair and the dog quietly reclined on the floor near by. The barber stopped to pat the graceful creature and pleasantly said, "Th' tap av th' mahrnin to you, Rover."

The dog cocked his ears and looked inquiringly at his master. The latter observed:

"Ze doggie do not speak Angles. He's a Parisian." Then he kicked at his pet and continued, "Bon jour, Raphael."

The greyhound very enthusiastically wiggled his tail upon the floor and replied in his master's admiration for a foreign accent:

"Ma fe! ze dog talks!" asked the barber, pausing in his work.

"Certainly," replied the young Frenchman, still speaking in broken English. "Tell him to roll over."

The barber did so, but the doggie merely remained quiet, and a wearied, sleepy expression appeared on his face. Then his master repeated the command in French, and the graceful pet, with a short bark of pleasure, of once rolled over and over.

The barber told him to sit up, to shake, to shake hands, etc., but doggie could only understand such as understood the suggestions in his native tongue.

As both left the dog the barber shook his head doubtfully. "Neat," he called out, and then added in an undertone, "It's worth as much goin' to Paris. Bein' it's space to pay where area the dollar spends' French."—Philadelphia Press.

Smokeless Powder.

The smokeless powders, when acting properly, produce higher velocities, while the pressure is not too high, and, indeed, give in some cases lower pressure than the best black powder. Being made chiefly of high explosives, they necessarily have possibilities of instability of character. One cannot but feel regarding them as one would toward a captured lion or tiger, which may have been apparently tamed. Subject to control under ordinary circumstances, the natural ferocity of the beast remains latent. At any instant it may break forth and destroy the trainer, who, the moment before, appeared to be its master.

Ordinary gunpowder alone appears to be worthy of full confidence. It is now used advantageously in a compressed form in small arms ammunition, giving velocities as high as 1,900 feet per second. Sufficient has been accomplished with smokeless powders to indicate that they may be used in small arms in future wars. Particularly will this be the case where the combatants assume that a war of long duration is out of the question, and that serious deterioration before use is not possible. Smokeless powders are not, however, noiseless, as is so frequently stated. The noise is somewhat different from that of black powder, being on a higher key, but it can be heard quite as distinctly and as far as when the latter is used.—North American Review.

Two Men Who Shoe Actors.

Maurice Ayling, an actor, says: There are two shoemakers in this country who might fairly call themselves actors' foot gear suppliers. One is in Chicago and the other in St. Louis, and I believe the two of them shoe at least 500 actors. If the horsey expression may be pardoned. It is hard to say which is the better man of the two, for both are well nigh perfect in their work and both know how to charge. But there are few fellows more severe on the feet than the actor's, and a fine shoe article has to be had at any cost. The men I am speaking off could tell you the size and shape of many a "star's" foot if they wanted to, for they keep the measurements and lasts on hand and never make a mistake. When one company was in San Francisco last four of the boys sent to St. Louis for new shoes and got them by express. I heard to add they came C. O. D., showing conclusively that the shoemaker is as good a judge of an actor's financial standing as he is of leather and style.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

He Would Be There.

A few days before the election in the Oneonetty division of the county of Bolsp, a postman, a farm laborer and the blacksmith chanced to meet at the blacksmith's shop at Montford's bridge, and the talk was of course about the election that was drawing near. "Well," said the blacksmith, "how many more votes are to be returns for Bloxphim now?" "Five," said the postman; "that is, four for the county and one for Shrewsbury." "Why," said the laborer, "then how many are there in parliament altogether?" "Nearly 700," said the postman. "Why," said the farm laborer, "I thought there was only Mr. Jepson and Mr. Blanke Leighton." "Do you mean to say," the postman asked, "that you thought the members returned for this division would be there by themselves?" "Oh, no," said the farm laborer, "good Gladstone will be there."—Shrewsbury Chronicle.

A Cat That Joked.

Lindsay names the cat as one of the animals that perpetrate practical jokes on each other or on man, that enter thoroughly into the spirit of the joke or fun, and enjoy and exult in its success, and often in illustration of his principle on instance of a cat teasing a frog, seemingly to hear it cry. Tad, of Dorniton, Me., seems to have had the humorous sense in a more refined degree. He would sit in the yard and, calling the neighboring cats together, would numerously so through giving them orders till he got them to fighting; then would withdraw to one side, so to his seat upon the window sill, and look on in evident amusement, swinging his large, bushy tail forcibly against the window pane, but when called into the house by his mistress he always stayed.

A SCARED EDITOR.

A country farmer stalked into the sanctum with a big rule under his coat.

"Are you the editor?" said he, as he entered.

"I think I am, sir."

"Well, I want to know what you mean, for sure, he said.

"Do you, sir, the worst on," our daughter was sick, and like to die; she dreamed and grew weak and pale, and we thought she was repeatedly, took actual, hands and feet and the doctor's powers, and we thought she had consumption, but she got hold of your paper and read your advertisement of Dr. Pierce's Pellets, and she got well right off, and we thought she had consumption, and we thought she had consumption, and we thought she had consumption