ICEHOUSES.

How to Build a Slightly House Above Ground.

While ice may be kept in the rudest of structures, provided proper ventilation, drainage, etc., are insured, it frequently happens that a tidy building is desired for the purpose—one that may be placed near the residence without detracting from the general surroundings. Such a house is the one illustrated in the cut and about which Country Gentleman has the following to say:

"We have built small icehouses wholly above ground with success in keeping the ice through the summer. The siding was erect boarding and battened nailed or spiked on an upper and lower frame of scantling, with a third flat one to stiffen the sides at the middle. In a windy place some additional bracing would be necessary. The cost of the structure will depend somewhat on the nature of the boards used for siding; if made of rough hemlock they will be cheaper than when made of smooth pine. We used the former, selecting the best and when finished they received a heavy coating of crude petroleum, which preserves from decay and retains nearly the general light brown color of the wood.

"The foundation for the ice is made of dressed cobblestone half a foot thick supporting a 2-inch plank floor, laid with cracks a fourth of an inch wide for drainage. Ten inches of sawdust was placed on this floor, in the absence of which a foot or more of finely cut rye

A TIDY ICEHOUSE.

straw may answer well. Oat straw is too soft and would pack too closely. We have never found anything better than single board walls, with ten inches or a foot between them and the inner of ice within, the sawdust being packed in the space as the structure of ice went up. Probably a foot or more of finely chopped straw would answer well. This mode is better than a permanent packing of sawdust in the space commonly provided for it, as it is liable to settle and leave crevices.

"The accompanying engraving is an end view of the house, the two doors being thrown wide open when the filling commences, and the space filled and packed as the pile goes upward, when first the lower door is closed and then the upper one, crossboards protecting these doors from the pressure within. When the house is full eight or ten inches of sawdust is placed on the top, and ample ventilation is provided through the triangular windows at both ends, without which the ice will not keep. Through the openings under the eaves the sawdust is thrown out when the ice is extracted until again needed."

The cost of a house with a shingle roof and side with matched lumber, called in some sections "drop siding," built in the manner here described, need not be more than sixty-five dollars, if made of rough hemlock boards, and the whole well sealed inside and out with crude petroleum. If made of planed pine the expense would be $100 and upward.

Bantam Fowls.

The exhibition of the United Bantam club of America at the American Institute fair, New York, illustrated by the number and interest of its visitors the popularity of these little birds. The idea prevalent among many amateurs that the diminutive fowls known as bantams are descended from an original wild stock is, according to such well known authorities as Wright, erroneous. They are in many cases counterparts of ordinary domestic breeds, carefully dwarfed and perfected by the art of man. They are, in fact, more than any other classes artificial fowls, and their attractiveness is in large part due to their beauty. Breeds recognized as bantams, other than game, by the American standard of perfection are Golden Seabright, Silver Seabright, White Rose Combed, Black Rose Combed, White Booted, Buff Pekin or Cochin, Black Tailed Japanese and White Crested White Polish.

Bantam chicks, after the first week or so, are as easily reared as other fowls. The hens are good layers of small but fine eggs and good mothers. The fowls by the way, are useful in the garden, where they eat many slugs and insects, with very little damage to the growing crops. Bantam chickens require a little more animal food than other fowls.

All bantams are attractive in appearance, each variety having its special admirers. The game bantams give a wide field for selection in the variety of colors exhibited by the several strains. Following are varieties of the game bantam recognized as worthy of adoption by the American standard of excellence: Black Breasted Red, Brown Red, Golden Duckwing, Silver Duckwing, Red Pyle, White, Black.

Insecticide for Cabbage Worms.

A. S. Fuller informs Gardening that for a pure, unadulterated insecticide for cabbage worms he prefers pure salt to anything else, for it will not only kill every worm it touches, but the rains will wash it away, leaving neither odor nor stain. A tablespoonful scattered over each head will be sufficient, but the dose must be repeated as often as a new crop of worms appears, and as the white cabbage butterflies are usually flying about from early spring until freezing weather any insecticide to be of much value must be applied often.

A Very Peculiar Ailment.

There is a peculiar case near Barbourville, W. Va., which is attracting the attention of the medical fraternity of this whole section of the country. It is a case of general bone breaking without an apparent cause. Mrs. Kelly, wife of Peter Kelly, a well known citizen, is the victim of this peculiar disease, which the local surgeons and doctors, for want of a better name, call fragilitas ossium. Mrs. Kelly, who is a delicate lady, was just getting around after a long and serious illness when, a few nights since, she got out of bed and started down stairs to get a drink of water.

When but a few steps down one of the boxes of her right leg broke with a peculiar gnashing sound, without having come in contact with anything, and from no apparent cause. She called her husband, and he picked her up and started back toward the bedroom with her, when the bones of her right and left arms broke in several places with the same peculiar snap heard and felt by the woman when the first fracture occurred.

Mrs. Kelly was carried to her bedroom and laid on her bed, when the bones of her left leg broke in the same manner. A surgeon was immediately sent for. He set the broken limbs and bandaged them. Mrs. Kelly said that she felt no pain when any of the fractures occurred, and that the setting and bandaging of her broken limbs occasioned her not the slightest discomfort.—Baltimore American.

Fear and Cholera.

A striking example of the effects of fear in times of cholera is the following authentic fact, which is recorded in the newspapers of that time:

In 1853 or 1854, I now forget which, we had the cholera in Wien (Vienna). The professors at the great general hospital in the Alserstrasse had their hands full. A man of the name of Franz Holzriegl was then awaiting sentence of death for murder, and the director of the hospital presented a petition to Emperor Franz Josef to grant a full pardon to this man providing the culprit in return would consent to sleep in a bed from which a corpse of a cholera victim had just been removed.

The emperor granted a full pardon under the aforesaid condition, and the condemned man was only too glad to comply. He was taken into the hospital and ordered to lie down at once in the same bed from which in his presence the corpse was removed. The man undressed and went to bed. In less than half an hour he began vomiting and in six hours he died from cholera.

The man died of cholera, which he took from fright. The corpse removed from the bed was not that of a cholera victim, but of a man who met his death from a gunshot wound. The experiment did not take place in the cholera wing, but in the ward for skin diseases.

Sisal Grass.

Sisal grass is likely to prove a very important source of wealth for Mexico. It grows in long, narrow blades, often to the length of four or five feet, and these, when dry, curl up from side to side, forming a flexible string stronger than any cotton cord of the same size ever manufactured. It is in great demand among florists and among manufacturers of various kinds of grass goods and it is said to be capable of being applied to many new uses. Ropes, cordelines of any description and size may be manufactured of it, and a ship's cable of sisal grass is one of the possibilities of the future. It is almost impervious to the action of salt water, and is not readily decayed or disintegrated by moisture and heat. It takes its name from the port of Sisal, in Yucatan, through which it was formerly exported.—Board of Trade Journal.

Traveling Stones in Nevada.

The curious "traveling stones" of Australia are paralleled in Nevada. They are described as being perfectly round, about as large as a walnut and of an ivory nature. When distributed about on the floor, table, or any smooth surface within two or three feet of each other they immediately commence traveling toward each other and meet at a common center, and there lie huddled in a bunch like eggs in a nest. A single stone removed to a distance of four feet, upon being released returns to the heap, but if taken away as much as five feet remains motionless. It is needless to say that they are largely composed of magnetic iron ore.—Grass Valley Union.

Maltese Wit.

The poorer Maltese have a ready wit. An English officer, failing to make a Maltese understand what he meant, called the poor man "a fool." Understanding this much the man, who had traveled about a good deal, though he did not understand English, replied by asking, "Do you speak Maltese?" "No." "Do you speak Arabic?" "No." "Do you speak Greek?" "No." "Do you speak Italian?" "No." "Then if I be one fool you be four fools."

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