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## HORTICULTURE.

To say a little more about propagation  
we come to cuttings. These are usually pre-  
pared from soft or hard wooded shoots.  
Pelargoniums (commonly known as gerani-  
ums), pansies and such like plants are  
examples of the former, shrubs and trees  
of the latter. Soft wooded cuttings are  
prepared from the ends of the shoots and  
are of various lengths up to six inches or  
even more. They should be cut off close  
to a joint as there is a reserve stock of  
material in the joint to assist the wound  
to callus or heal more quickly and thus  
assist and hasten the rooting process. Re-  
move some of the lower leaves, and if  
thickly leaved thin some of the others  
especially in fleshy leaved things such as  
geraniums so that the stem being open to  
the air, damping is avoided. Geraniums  
are sure rooters and in summer time prac-  
tically every cutting will grow if simply  
planted out in the open and not watered,  
or if planted in pans or shallow boxes and  
placed in the greenhouse where there is  
more warmth they may be kept moist and  
will root quickly, but do not over water.  
Pansies should be cut low down below  
the soft hollow wood or if possible pulled  
out with a little root as then they will  
root quickly and very few will fail. They  
should be started in summer so as to  
form nice plants before winter and be  
ready for early spring use, or for later  
use may be started in spring. Hardwood  
cuttings are mostly taken from the current  
year's growth, when it has become mat-  
ured and should be formed from shoots,  
with or without leaves, cut to more than  
six or eight inches, any soft tip being re-  
moved as a general rule but not neces-  
sarily so with overgreens, and when single  
stems are desired the lower buds should  
be removed to prevent suckers forming  
below the ground. Small side shoots cut  
off with a slight heel also make very good  
cuttings, and with some things give the  
best results. With some evergreen shrubs  
of slender growth tips about two inches  
long give the best results as in the case of  
manuka. The crimson manuka Nicholi  
for instance can be successfully so raised,  
the best course being to plant thickly in  
a shallow pan and keep damp and shaded  
from the sun, when a fair proportion may  
be generally relied upon. In all cases  
good clean soil without manure should be  
used, and good drainage provided, the soil  
being firmly pressed round the cuttings.  
Layering—shrubs and plants that do not  
strike readily from cuttings can in many  
cases be propagated in this method in  
which the cutting is not wholly severed  
from the parent plant but cut half way  
through and then split for a short dis-  
tance towards the point and pegged down  
firmly beneath the surface of the soil,  
which is firmly pressed round the layer,  
and severed when well rooted, which in  
some cases is not till the following aut-  
umn. The layering is done in summer or  
autumn, and in the case of shrubs not  
severed till the following autumn. Carna-  
tions are commonly propagated by this  
method in the summer and severed in the  
autumn but they can be quite successfully  
grown from cuttings if cut well into the  
matured wood.

### A LONGING.

Mine's a music-loving nature, and my very  
heartstrings thrill  
To the song of thrush or mavis—night-  
ingale or whippoorwill;  
But my unfulfilled ambition is to hear  
the haunting croon  
Of the apteryx a-singing in the ilex on  
the dune.  
I have wandered in the tropics, I have  
rambled in the glades,  
I have heard the scarlet tangerine thrill  
forth from coppice shades;  
But its song is unimportant, colourless  
its rhythmic rune  
To the apteryx a-singing in the ilex on  
the dune.  
I have heard the cockle-leekie on the  
lonely Scottish moor;  
I have heard the raucous gowra, with its  
piping dink and dour;  
I have heard the brocadero, but I still  
beg Fortune's boon  
Of the apteryx a-singing in the ilex on  
the dune.  
So I wait in simple silence. I possess  
my soul and mind  
In what patience I can muster and what  
courage I can find.  
And I trust I yet shall listen, in  
October, say, or June—  
To an apteryx a-singing in the ilex on  
the dune.

—Carolyn Wells.

## THE FARM.

POWDERED MILK.

In view of the "boom" in powdered  
milk in the Dominion and the disposi-  
tion of promoters of dairying manufac-  
tories to discard butter and cheese pro-  
ducts for one or other of the "new  
ideas," an American opinion as pub-  
lished in a Montreal paper may not be  
amiss. A big powdered milk factory was  
established some years ago in a Michigan  
district, and entered into competition with  
the cheese factories. The new concern  
paid a higher price than the factories, and  
gradually, one by one, the cheese factories  
went out of operation and were torn  
down. When the newspaper representa-  
tives visited the district the farmers were  
most thoroughly dissatisfied, as the pat-  
rons of cheese factories in other counties  
were actually getting more for their milk  
than they were from the powdered milk  
concern. "As soon as the price of  
building material and factory equipment  
comes down to normal," said one of  
these patrons, "you will see a rush to  
build and equip our cheese factories  
and creameries again. We are tired of  
the milk combines and intend running  
our own show." Dairy farmers in many  
parts of Canada (adds the paper) can  
well afford to remember the old adage  
and keep two strings to their bow. In  
some sections of Ontario already, where  
the cheese factories have been allowed to  
go out of business, there is now strong  
dissatisfaction. Even if the cheese fac-  
tories were not running, but kept in good  
condition, they would be an effective curb  
on setting prices too low. There is also  
a possibility that the big war demand for  
condensed milk may not continue during  
the years of peace and even in condensa-  
tory sections farmers may not be able to find  
a market. This may prove to be a bad  
prophecy. We hope it will. All the  
same it is well to remember "the second  
string."

### FRUIT TREES BLOSSOMING OUT OF SEASON.

The most frequent cause of fruit trees  
blossoming out of season is loss of foli-  
age. This may be caused by the pear  
and plum leech, or by spraying with  
mixtures that are too strong, while some-  
times plum-rust defoliates trees. In such  
cases the majority of the fruit-buds that  
should remain dormant till spring break  
into blossom. The result is the loss of  
the next season's crop, and nothing can  
be done. It is quite a common occurrence  
for a few precocious buds to break into  
flower, the cause for this not being easily  
explained. In such cases it is usually  
terminal buds that break, and no harm is  
done, as it does not affect the other parts  
of the tree. In many places it is quite  
common to get a good second crop of fruit  
on Bon Chretien pear, but the second lot  
being all on terminals no harm results. At  
the Arataki Horticultural Station, in  
Hawke's Bay, a Japanese plum known as  
Large Yellow several times remained ever-  
green. It produced a great show of  
blossoms in May and set the fruit, al-  
though most was lost from the effects of  
frost. However, only a portion of the  
buds broke, and the trees always pro-  
duced a full crop at the proper season.  
Briefly put, premature blossoming does  
no harm when it is confined to twigs.  
Extensive blossoming will not occur unless  
the tree suffers a check, such as by loss of  
foliage, and when this occurs it results in  
loss of the next season's crop. Loss of  
foliage can usually be avoided by proper  
treatment of the pests that cause it. In  
any case, no good will result from pruning  
before the usual time—namely, during  
winter while the trees are dormant.—W.  
H. Taylor, in the "Journal of Agricul-  
ture."

### INCREASING THE HERD.

It is necessary to add new cows to the  
herd from time to time to replace those  
removed on account of old age, disability,  
or death; and it would seem a wise policy  
to raise heifer calves for this purpose  
rather than to buy additional stock out-  
side. If the dairyman has good producing  
foundation cows and a purebred sire  
backed by proven ancestry, he may feel  
very sure that his heifer calves, care-  
fully reared, will make good at the pail;  
while his bull calves may easily be dis-  
posed of at profitable prices, if judicious  
advertising, setting forth their rightful  
claims to transmitted and transmitting  
superiority, is employed. On the other hand  
the dairy farmer who is constantly buy-  
ing to maintain the desired number in his  
herd is liable to bring in occasional un-  
desirable individuals, of ill-breeding, im-  
properly reared, or carrying the germs of  
disease, with which to taint and lower  
the general standard of his herd. It is

fairly certain, also, that any man has  
more real affection and pride for animals  
of his own breeding than for others; that  
he understands them more perfectly, and  
can produce better results with them.  
And so, for the joy that may lie in your  
work and the profit you hope to secure  
through it, lay a satisfactory breeding  
foundation and raise your own dairy cows.

### MILK IN AMERICA.

The production of milk in the United  
States during 1918 was about 4 per cent.  
more than in 1917, according to reports  
made by crop reporters of the Bureau of  
Crop Estimates. The yield per cow was  
estimated to be 8.2 quarts per day, for  
287 days of the year (equalling 588 gal-  
lons) in 1918, and 8 quarts for 285 days  
(570 gallons) in 1917. To estimate the  
total production of milk it is not proper to  
apply the above estimated yield per cow  
to the number of milk cows as reported by  
the United States Department of Agri-  
culture because this figure is based upon  
the census classification, which include  
some heifers not yet fresh. Making what  
seems to be proper allowance for this  
(applying yield per cow to 80 per cent.  
of the total as reported by the Depart-  
ment of Agriculture), indications seem to  
be that the total production on farms in  
1918 was about 11,044,000,000 gallons,  
and in 1917 about 10,629,000,000 gallons.  
These estimates (remarks "Queenslander")  
do not include production of cows not on  
farms (i.e., those in towns and villages),  
which would add about 5 per cent. to the  
estimates above for the total production of  
the United States.

### ORCHARD RHYME.

Come, wander with me in the orchard,  
Love, where the colours of autumn  
glow

Like leaping flames in the cherry-trees,  
And the pear-toughs, high and low,  
Are golden-brown in the mellow rays of  
the fast-declining sun,  
While the mudlark echoes my thoughts  
of you with his racketing "you're the  
one!"

Observe, dear Emma, the swelling globes  
that garnish the guava-bush,  
And—there's the cow at the nectarines!  
To blazes with you, you—whooosh!

The quince is covered with saffron fruit.  
In the green of the passion vine,  
Half-hidden, the purple harvest hangs—  
this morning I counted nine.

Black Hamburg grapes (or they should  
be black, though they're usually  
greeny-grey)

Are draped, you see, on the woodshed,  
Em, in a really attractive way;

And a carpet of wind-blown leaves is yel-  
low and crimson beneath our feet. . .

One moment, Emma, I've got to hop on  
these blighted shellbacks, sweet.

See the London pippin, now lemon-pale,  
down there by the water-tap.

What's that on your gloves? Why, bird-  
lime, dear, that I smear on the  
starling-trap.

Each pippin will weigh a pound or so,  
and some of them more, maybe;

And the jargonelle—aw, look at the  
wretches, swarming right up the  
tree!

Excuse me, dear, for a moment, while  
I run for my poison-pump;  
I've got to keep these da-cr-readful pear-  
slugs on the jump.

Note the Rome Beauty, drooping there  
with its burden of gorgeous red.

Emma, look out—oh, dra—it! You're  
walking all over the strawberry bed,  
And the—wow! Oh, bust my blistering  
luck—er, Em, pup-pardon, please,

Excuse me, love if I sit awhile and  
fondle my aching knees.

I hope—ha, ha!—you will overlook, oh,  
g-r-r-r, I'll be blithered and blest!

Both knees hang through the tomato-  
frame! Da-dash the counfounded  
pest.

Emma, you're what? Not going, m'dear?

Why, I've got a surprise for you.  
I wanted to show you the lily-pond love,  
and the dear little ducklings, too.

And you ought to visit the beehive, Em.  
Why should you hurry away?

The horrible temper I seem to have?  
And the terrible things I say?

I ought really to be ashamed of—why,  
why, dash it all, Em, I am!

Emma! She's gone—she's bally well  
gone! . . . Well, let'er be gone.  
Now, Damn!

Frank Henty in the "Sydney Bulletin."

"Our life is determined for us—and it  
makes the mind very free when we give up  
wishing, and only think of bearing what  
is laid upon us and doing what  
is given us to do."—Maggie Tulliver.

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Where thousands stop  
To get a drink,  
That makes them think  
'Tis excellent.