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Pasture Notes.

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Two reasons for keeping down weeds. They deprive crops of moisture, and draw on the soil food that crops need. In other words, weeds rob crops of food and drink.

The importance of a supply of pure water for all kinds of live stock, more especially dairy cattle, cannot be overestimated, and when selecting a dairy farm this question should receive most particular attention. Without an unpolluted water supply, it would be impossible to preserve young and old stock alike in a perfect state of health.

Within one month recently four American Guernsey cows, owned by W. Marsh, Waterloo, Ia., made records as the leaders in the respective classes. Imp. Prospect's Rose des Houardes produced 15,1571b of milk, and 7261b of butterfat. Lillia of Iowa 2nd produced 14,2391b of milk, and 7731b of butterfat. Lily of the Prairie, has a record of 11,6611b of milk, and 6201b of butterfat. Imp. Ladock Jenny's record 43 15,4531b of milk, and 8091b of butterfat.

The ordinary bad-tempered bull seldom does harm other than irritating men's norves and keeping the womenfolk anxious; but the quiet, docile, "kind as a kitten" bull is the one to keep an eye on. Years may pass without anything happening to injure his reputation, but all the while he may be waiting his chance. Every bull should be handled and managed at all times as though he were known to be dangerous. He is dangerous, whether he has shown symptoms of it or not, and some day may make the fact sorrowfully manifest.

Some interesting figures are noted on the economic results of land drainage in various parts of the Continent of Europe. The average increased returns from drainage are shown in the reports from twenty-two estates in Germany for the ten years ending in 1914, as:—Rye, 37 per cent; oats, 42; wheat, 30; potatoes, 50, and in the thirty years, 1887-1917, the average increase in yields are shown by an Austrian Land Commission as follows:— Cereals, 803lb an acre; potatoes, 2677lb; roots, 11,600lb; hay, 223lb, straw, 1249lb.

The cost of farm seed, at present prices, is a serious item of expense. Some of this may be avoided turnip seed, for instance, is comparatively simple to save. \mathbf{A} selection should be made of well-grown roots. These should be lifted when they are about matered and replanted in a protected situation. July is a favourable month for this transplantation. plants should not be close than twelve inches apart and the rows twenty-four inches, The roots should be planted It is also desirable to fairly deeply. provide some protection from small birds. As turnips hybridise freely, the selection should be confined to a single

Investigations and a series of experiments very definitely prove that the quality of a pasture is not primarily dependent on its bottonical composition, though, as a rule, the presence of white clover and other leguminosae is gener ally indicative of high feeding value. That poor pastures, especially on clay soil, can be rapidly and profitably improved by the use of phosphates, especially basic slag. That, as a rule, phosphates alone are sufficient to effect and maintain the improvement, and that, of supplementary substances, potash and lime are worthy of attention. That lime are worthy of attention. the improvement of poor pasture is very dependent on the presence of luguminosae, and especially of white clover. That renovating with the seed of wild white clover may, in the absence of natural leguminosac, be a necessary operation. That nitrogen, when added to phosphates for pasture, is unnecessary and frequently detrimental. That in the case of hay or permanent grass land, equal weights of produce may have very different feeding values. That few forms of agricultural expenditure are more certain in their results on grass land, and that the meat and milk producing capacity of the country can be largely and rapidly increased with great pecuniary gain to the farmer, with advantage to the nation.

In Berlin, Professor Voss found the maximum speed of pigeons 100 feet per

CARDEN NOTES.

THE COOL GREENHOUSE,

Calceolaria plants from last year's sowing will begin to move, and should be shifted into their flowering pots before the buds show. The 8in size is a useful one, and large enough for them. The compost should be prepared some days before use, and should consist of good rich and, above all, porous material, such as two parts turfy loam, one of very old manure, one leaf mould, and one of sand, with a handful of soot and a good dusting of houe meal, well mixed.

Fuchsias.—Old plants from last year

that have been stored away for the winter will soon be moving into growth again, if they have not already done so. As soon as this takes place they should be taken to the potting beach and carefully turned out of their pots, shaking out all the soil from the roots, and lightly trimming them at the same time. Repot into clean pots, giving rich material, for the fuchsia is a hungry plant, and must have rich soil if good results are to be obtained. Repot into the same size pot as the one they came out of, so that they may be potted on again for flowering. Pruning back of the old wood on these plants is necessary, and should be done at this potting. Shorten back to about the second joint on each small side branch, and take a small piece off the top, and as soon as the young shoots have made four eyes pinco out the points to cause fresh growth This stopping may be continued until the desired size of the plant is obtained, then leave them to flower at will. To grow reallly fine specimens, say, from 4ft upwards, they must have large pots to flower in. From 10in to 12in pots are necessary to obtain plants of size. They will require plenty of warmth and mois-ture, and partial shading from the hot

Maidenhair ferns that are commencing to throw up their young fronds should be reported, and all the old brown and dead fronds removed. The proper material for maidenrhair ferns is equal parts turfy loam, leaf, soil, and clean, sharp sand, giving plenty of drainage.

This is a good time for the repotting of most ferns, as active growth commonres in the spring. For most varieties of ferns a good open material is required, with less leaf mould than with the maidenhair. Turfy loam and peat in equal parts, with rome leaf soil and plenty of sharp sand and charcoal, well mixed and not too fine, will grow most kinds to perfection, but there are special and individual mode that require different and special treatment as well as different material.

" SPRAYING.

However small a garden, its owner is sure to be troubled more or less by some of the many common pests which, if left nomolested, will quickly ruin choice plants and trees, and this is a very good time—in fact, from now on for the next two or three weeks I consider the best of all trees—for this operation. No donot the best time is immediately before the buds curst, so one must be guided by the condition of his trees, whether in an early or late position.

To the sucking insects belong the aphides, and the green, black, and brown flies, which attack nearly every kind of fruit and rose tree in the summer months. For these pests there is nothing better, to my mind, for outdoof plants than enulsion. Boil one quart of kerosene and lib of soft soap in a little water in an d saucepan, skim off the fatty material on the surface as it boils, dilute with 6 gailons of water, and stir well. It will then be ready for use.

Woolly aphis (American blight) is destroyed by spraying with caustic alkali wash. Formula: Dissolve separately 11b of ground caustic soda and 11b of crude potash, pour both into 10gal of water, add 11b of treacle, and stir well. When using this put on old clothes and gloves, as it is of rather a burning nature. It is very effective, and good for destroying mossy growth, red spider scale, and eggs of moths.

Mealy bug is generally found in hothouses on stove plants and in vincries. It makes sad havoc in the latter case it is once gets a hold. For hothouse plants spray well with the above emulsion, and fumigate occasionally with nicoticide. For vines, scrape off all old bark, and paint well in with a stiff brush.

Thrips are small insects infesting azaleas and many other greenhouse plants. The frequent use of the syringe is the best preventive of this. For small plants, dip them head downwards in a bucket containing some of the above emulsion, or fumigate with nicoticde; this is a grand remedy for green fly and other insects that frequent greenhouse plants.

For caterpillars, spray with paris green ted or arsenate of lead. With the latter use ing.

one teaspoonful in a gallon of water. Where the caterpillars have a hold, and are curled up in the leaves, hand-picking is the only way to dispose of them.

SCIENCE NOTES.

SUN AS A SOURCE OF POWER.

In a recent paper on this subject, Mr C. Le Roy Meisinger records that in certain subtropical regions, where coal is scarce, such as Egypt, the Punjab, and the Karoo of South Africa, teakwood boxes, blackened within, fitted with glass tops and properly insulated, have been found to register from 240 to 275 deg. Fahr, in the middle of the day, and, with the addition of an auxiliary mirror, to reach even 320 deg. These boxes are used as ovens for cooking, as well as for many other purposes.

LABORATORY ACCURACY.

The accuracy of calibrated glassware, of hydrometers, thermometers, weights, and other items of laboratory equipment, as well as the chemicals and reagents employed, is at the very basis of our scientific work, and it is therefore very important that the effort to assist in perfecting these standard materials should be encouraged. It is believed that a service can be rendered both to the manufacturers and the scientists through proper standardisation, and this can be effected through the co-operation of makers and users. That such a movement is important is shown by steps that are being taken both in Germany and England to standardise chemical apparatus and glass-

PLANT PATHOLOGY.

The science of plant pathology or the investigation and control of diseases of plants, particularly those caused by fungi, has been pushed forward of late with the greatest rapidity in the United States. Experts have co-operated very closely in the endeavour to save as much as possible of every crop from the ravages of disease. One party of American pathologists met for the purpose of studying potato diseases. Tours into important potato-growing areas were arranged, and the best methods for the control of the various diseases were discussed. Visits were also made by other parties to the largest green houses in America, and to the tobacco-growing regions, where much useful investigation work was carried out.

AN ENGINEERING FEAT.

What engineers consider to be one of the greatest feats of the age was accomplished by a Chicago engineer, when his organisation moved a reinforced concrete building a distance of 450 feet to make room for a new, large office building. The structure moved is three storeys high and is occupied as an office building. It was a question of either tearing it down or moving it. Inasmuch as it was practically new, the razing of it was considered almost shameful, so its removal was decided upon. The proposed site required the crossing of a street on which a car line travelled. This necessitated the cutting of trolley wires and telephone cables. During the entire period of moving-six days-business was not suspended a minute; telephone communication was uninterrupted and business continued as usual.

SOLDIERS GRAVES.

The design for the headstone that is to be erected over the graves of New Zealand soldiers who died during the war has been approved by Cabinet. High Commissioner inspected some headstones after his arrival in Great Britain, and it is on his recommendation that Cabinet has reached a decision. approved headstone is a cross 30in high by 15in wide. The circle at the centre contains the inscription "New Zealand," surmounted by a fern leaf. The name, rank, and regiment of the soldier will be inscrib. ed on the cross. The High Commissioner is sending a specimen of the cross to New Zealand. A draft design that has been received suggest that provision will be made for the inscription to be provided by the relatives; but this point is not quite clear yet.

Latest figures obtained by the federal bureau of education, show that between 300,000 and 400,000 children in the United States last year were without schooling.

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