

# The Acantha.

GEORGE W. MAGER, Editor.

DUPUYER, - - - MONTANA.

If the government wants any armor plate Carnegie and Frick are once more in the field.

Power sometimes forgets itself so far as to imagine that it exists for itself, and not for the service of humanity.

The world's noblest work is in reclaiming the fallen, in strengthening the weak, in gaining victory over temptation and in creating virtue.

If there's a right thing to be done, and we seem to pass through a wrong thing on our way to it, depend upon it there's another way to it, and a better one, and it is our own fault, and not God's, that we do not find it.

Gov. Roosevelt expressed a great truth and urged a much-needed lesson when he said, in a recent speech, that while the commandment, "Thou shalt not steal," should be enforced upon politicians, another commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor," should in equal measure be enforced upon the critics of politicians.

There are forty George Washingtons in Baltimore, of whom thirty-nine are colored and one is white. This recalls the story of the aged colored man who remarked, on hearing his son read from ancient history of Pompey and Caesar, that all the great men of antiquity must have been negroes, as those names were not commonly borne by white people.

Weather terms are elastic. Havana was full of shivering people, and the visitation was called a cold wave, when the temperature lately fell to 53 degrees. The Cuban style of wintry blasts would be popular in regions where boreal gales have no inclination to mercy. The West Indian cold wave is almost matched by the London hot wave, reported each summer, when the mercury has risen only to a point indicative to Americans of seasonable warmth.

Some of the experiments with wireless telegraph apparatus for the use of the British army in South Africa are said to indicate that the operation of the instruments is interrupted by veins of iron ore in the hills. This recalls the recent report of the United States Naval Board on Marconi's system, to the effect that communication might be entirely interrupted when tall buildings with an iron framework intervened between the transmitting and receiving stations.

A writer in a medical publication of the Johns Hopkins University describes a case which, he says, "is interesting because it suggests a new operation—hepaticocholecystostochol cystenterostomy, or hepaticocholecystostenterostomy." Every one will be relieved to know that the treatment so eloquently described is only an advanced method of dealing with colic, by which it will be seen that science in its march is encumbered by the baggage it carries. Caesar called it impedimenta, which has taken a modern sense that seems appropriate in this case.

The average loss by fire in the United States has been reduced in ten years from \$6,922 to \$1,860. The insurance loss in the same period was reduced from \$3,993 to \$1,056. The prevailing use of electricity has unexpectedly brought about a large increase in fires, owing to crossed wires. Ten years ago there were only sixty-six such fires and last year there were 958. Defective fuses are responsible for over 11 per cent of the fires and incendiary fires is next as a cause. Last year 6,891 incendiary fires occurred. Lightning caused 3,479, spontaneous combustion, 1,179, friction in machinery 295, natural gas 94, dust explosions 14, and five were caused by the sun's rays passing through window glass. There was no assignable cause for 12,204 fires of last year.

There is visible in the night sky, under favorable circumstances, a faint light, rounded in outline, and situated always exactly opposite to the place of the sun. It is called "gegenchein," and is one of the most inexplicable objects known to astronomers. Recently Prof. W. H. Pickering has suggested a new explanation of the gegenchein. According to him it may be "a sort of cometary or meteoric satellite" attending the earth. He supposes it to be composed of a cloud of meteors, situated about 1,000,000 miles from the earth, and revolving round it in a period of just one year, so that the sun and the meteors are always on opposite sides of the earth. He estimates that the size of this ghostly satellite may be nearly the same as that of the planet Jupiter, viz., about \$6,000 miles in diameter.

## FARM AND GARDEN.

### MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.

#### Varieties of Strawberries.

From Farmers' Review: It seems to me now, after twenty years of experience, that there is nothing more important to the strawberry grower than choice of variety. In the raising of grain, or vegetables or fruit of any kind, much depends on the proper selection of varieties, but in strawberry culture almost everything depends on it. With a pretty general knowledge of the well tested varieties now grown, gained both by observation and reading, I do not hesitate to say emphatically that for this latitude and for a number of degrees north and south of the latitude of Chicago, the one great berry, worth more than all the others together, is the Warfield.

Speaking of strawberry culture in the past I think it is true that there have been just three great berries, each of which had its day and gave way to the next, and these are the Wilson, the Crescent, and the Warfield. Growers who raised the Wilson in its day and who at the proper time substituted the Crescent, and then after the Warfield was well introduced planted it and gave up the Crescent, have done the best for themselves and for their customers that could be done. I think most practical growers will agree with me when I speak of the expense and disappointment which have attended our efforts to secure the best varieties. What a time indeed we have had with the highly praised newcomers, the Bidwells, Manchesters, Jewels, Lady Rusks, Chas. Downeys, Big Bobs, Mt. Vernons, Bubachs, Jessies, Parker Earles, and a host of others whose names I will not mention, all introduced with a great flourish and often having some good qualities but as practical, business berries, utterly worthless. It seems strange to me that so many writers and even experiment stations speak of some good point in very many of these varieties, without adding that in the summing up they have no value at all.

I know that some growers will protest against my judgment of some of these berries, but I believe the best conclusions of practical men are in line with my own. Some would probably defend the Bubach and Haverland, which are of good size and productive, but I never ate one of the first without regretting it, and the second I would not permit my pickers to gather, so wretchedly soft and tasteless it is. Parker Earle is solid and productive, but of bad color and unreliable. Beder Wood is productive and has been highly praised, but I have always felt guilty for picking it at all, so soft and insipid and colorless it is and I am glad to see in our latest station reports that it is not recommended as it was.

Doubtless some of the new berries will prove to have value, and some, like the Marshall, are certain to be of use for fancy market, but I repeat in conclusion that for the climate I have mentioned, for real value both to producer and consumer, there is no well-tested berry which is worthy of comparison with Warfield. In my view the most important problem for practical growers now is to find the best and most reliable fertilizer for the Warfield.

S. W. GIBSON.

#### Among the Window Plants.

From the Farmers' Review: At this season of the year most plants in the window will begin to make strong, vigorous growth, if properly fed. As soon as they begin to grow, but not before, give them liberal applications of some good fertilizer. Many persons whose plants are not growing satisfactorily think to "give them a start" by feeding them rich food. This is all wrong. The plants are not in condition to make use of such food until they begin to grow. It injures them if given when they cannot assimilate it. Therefore, wait and keep close watch of them, and when signs of growth are seen, begin to feed them. Give weak applications at first, increasing the supply as the growth of the plant increases.

The proper time to train plants is when they are growing. If a branch shows a tendency to outgrow other branches, thus making the plant unsymmetrical, nip off the end of it at once. Keep it from making more growth until the other branches have had a chance to catch up with it, thus giving the plant proper balance on all sides. Most persons neglect their plants in this respect, because, they say, "It seems such a pity to interfere with them, when they are growing so well." Growth is not all we aim at. We want well-shaped, symmetrical plants, and such plants we can not have unless we give them proper training. Very few plants can be trusted to train themselves. Whatever training they get should be given while they are in the early stages of de-

velopment. The old saying that it is hard work to teach an old dog new tricks applies here. When a plant has been allowed to grow to suit itself until it has reached its prime, it is too late to do very much for it. Take it in hand, then, while growing, and make it understand that it must come to your terms. Plants are tractable things. They will do as you tell them to if they see you "mean business."

EBEN E. REXFORD.

#### The Value of Weeds.

Weeds have a value. The writer once heard Professor Bailey say that the weed is the friend of the farmer, and no man should want to get rid of a farm because it is weedy. He himself had purchased a good farm at a low price, because it had all run to weeds and the former owner believed that they were so numerous as to greatly reduce the value of the land. But these same weeds had been keeping the fertility of the soil from leaching out, and had kept the ground in a condition where it would not bake, but would readily yield to the plow. He simply turned all the weeds under and got back the fertility they had taken from the ground. Then he planted to other crops and had a regained farm.

Were it not for weeds, say after a clover crop, the nitrogen in the soil in readiness for plant use would disappear. As it is, the weeds take it up and hold it for subsequent crops. The cultivation that is necessary to keep down weeds is not time and effort lost. The benefit to the crop cultivated is more than enough to pay for the outlay. The additional effect of conservation of moisture is not to be forgotten.

Weeds are also valuable for the work they do in keeping the land in the hands of the many. Were there no weeds the cultivation of the land could be undertaken on an immense scale by men of wealth and a monopoly in land would be possible. If such a monopoly were attempted at this time, the cost of keeping the land clean would make it impossible to keep it under control.

#### As to Fertilizers.

In general it is best to try to grow nitrogen gathering crops in rotation with cereals when cereals are grown at all. The roots of the clover crop remaining in the ground enrich the soil with nitrogen in such a form that it can be used by the succeeding crop of cereals. Experiments seem to show that all this nitrogen produced from a single crop of clover, the roots only being left in the ground, but the plant not turned under, is sufficient only to supply the needs of the first grain crop coming after it. Potash and phosphoric acid should be in the soil in good quantities to ensure the proper and economical use of the nitrogen in the soil. It does not pay to attempt to use any one class of fertility without the presence of the others. Thus, it is found that what is called a complete fertilizer—nitrogen, potash, and phosphoric acid combined—gives the best results in all cases.

If, however, a single grain is to be grown on the land for an indefinite period and without rotation the application of fertilizers to the land should be governed as far as possible by the constituents of the whole grain plant. This can be found easily from any book giving a list of grains and their analyses. In the case of barnyard manure this rule cannot be followed unless the farmer be ultra scientific, for it will require a good deal of fine figuring to determine about what are the constituents of a manure pile, the problem being based on the foods that have been fed out in the making of the said manure pile.

#### The British Farm Outlook.

An English correspondent of the Farmers' Review, writing under date of March 5, says: The rainfall of February, including melted snow, was more than double the average, and the land is still saturated with water, so that the sowing of spring grain crops has not yet begun. We like to put in beans and some barley before the end of February; but this season, even if fine weather prevails after this date, very little sowing will be done before the middle of March, and even then, unless we have frost to disintegrate the soil, the work will be arduous and protracted. The wheat has been flourishing until within the last few days, but it is now showing signs of suffering from the wet state of the land and the northeast wind. The lambing season, now more than half over, has been a prosperous one, so far, but succulent feed is scarce. Therefore the rearing of the lambs will be expensive.

Destroying Mustard.—Prof. Shepard of the Dakota Experiment Station says that a 2 per cent solution of bluestone or copper sulphate will destroy mustard without injuring the grain. Wheatfields in the Northwest are largely infested with mustard, and if some scheme for applying the blue vitriol cheaply can be devised it will undoubtedly prove helpful to wheat farmers.

Breeding inside established lines can alone offset the tendency of animals to atavism.

#### Requisites of a Good Shepherd.

G. F. CURTIS: A flock of sheep cannot be handled or fattened successfully without a close observance of their habits and peculiarities. There are a great many little things that enter into the attention and management by a successful shepherd that may seem trivial, yet they have much to do with the comfort, thrift, and profit of the flock. The axiom that "The eye of the master fattens" is nowhere more applicable than in the sheepfold. The competent feeder acquires a trained eye, that detects at a glance any evidence of disorder that will be manifest if a single animal is off of feed or out of condition. To the unobserving or inexperienced feeder sheep all look alike, but when rightly studied a class of stock presents more marked individual peculiarities or so clearly manifests evidence of thrift and well-doing or the reverse. Attention to these little details, accompanied, by regular habits and a quiet manner, constitutes the keynote of successful sheep feeding. Nothing contributes more to good results than contentment and quiet surroundings. The feeder who disturbs the quiet and comfort of the flock every time he goes about it should quit the sheep business at once. Rough manners and harsh treatment absolutely disqualify any man for success in this work. The natural timidity and nervous temperament of the sheep necessitate gentle treatment. Their dainty habits about eating and drinking must also be indulged as fully as practicable. No animal naturally selects a wider variety of feed, particularly of rough forage and vegetation; but two essentials are always exacted, viz., cleanliness and palatability. Never give a sheep any stale or undesirable feed, nor expect it to eat any feed left over from a previous meal. The ration should be always wholesome and tempting to the appetite. The barn or stabling quarters should never be without a fresh, pure atmosphere and an ample supply of dry bedding. Sheep rarely suffer from cold if kept dry and protected from direct drafts. The open air is better than a poorly kept shed or barn.

#### Proportions of Straw and Grain.

There is no fixed relation between the proportions of straw and grain in the cereals. In some years the proportion of straw is greater than others; the weather has something to do with this condition. In wet years and with not enough sunshine to fully ripen the grain early, or, rather, to stop the development of the straw, the proportion of the latter is great. Various efforts have been made to ascertain what effect different kinds of manure and fertilizers would have on the proportions of straw and grain. The results have not been definite enough to make it advisable to attempt to control the proportions by different methods of enriching the soil. Nitrogenous manures seem to stimulate the straw development, but not excessively. The largest yields of grain are generally accompanied by large yields of straw. It is probably impossible to get a good grain without a good stalk. In the years when grain "heads out low" the yield of grain is generally short.

The aim should be to develop both grain and straw in the same proportion. This is done the most certainly by following a rotation. The grain should come after corn, or roots or potatoes, and these crops should receive the fertilizers rather than the cereals.

#### Fertility in Potatoes.

Bulletin 57 of the Maine Experiment Station giving some figures of the chemical contents of a potato crop says: Assuming these figures to fairly represent potatoes as grown in Maine, a crop of 200 bushels, weighing six tons, would remove thirty-seven pounds of nitrogen, sixteen pounds of phosphoric acid and fifty-eight pounds of potash. If the amounts and proportions of fertilizing elements removed by a crop could be taken as a guide in preparing a field for that crop, the problem of supplying the proper amount and kind of plant food to the soil would be much simplified. To manure a field for a crop of potatoes, nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash would have to be added in about the proportions given above and in sufficient quantity to supply the vines and tubers the land was expected to yield. A formula made up on this basis would be very materially different from any mixed fertilizer on the market and would contain the fertilizing elements in about the following proportions: Nitrogen, 5 parts; phosphoric acid, 2 parts; and potash, 8 parts.

At the Missouri Experiment Station Prof. Schweitzer measured the leaf surface of a vigorous corn plant of average development. The total surface of the 12 leaves and sheaths was found to be 3,480 square inches, or about 24 square feet.

Prof. Von der Goltz, of Germany, states that investigations have shown that a farmer that buys a farm cannot afford to pay interest on mortgages that exceed two-thirds of its purchase price.

Another Department.  
Agent (of philanthropic society)—My dear young woman, the proprietors of this store assured us they had provided seats for their clerks. I don't see any.  
Sales Girl—They're all in the furniture department, ma'am.—Chicago Tribune.

England's Armored Trains.  
The magnificent armored trains used by England in her war with the Boers will protect her troops in about the same way that Hostetter's Stomach Bitters drives dyspepsia from the human stomach, and then mounts guard that it does not return. The Bitters have won in every case of indigestion, constipation, liver and kidney trouble for fifty years.

Kept Awake Listening.  
"What makes Mrs. Hencken look so worried these days, I wonder?"  
"Her husband has developed a habit of talking in his sleep, and it's driving her crazy."—Philadelphia Press.

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## HOOD'S Sarsaparilla

Possesses the peculiar qualities—Peculiar to Itself—which accomplish these good things for all who take it. An unlimited list of wonderful cures prove its merit.

#### PATENTS.

List of Patents Issued Last Week to Northwestern Inventors.

JAMES O. BAIE, Waseca, Minn., spring attachment for pump rods; MICHAEL BECK and E. FERRANT, Minneapolis, Minn., automatic magazine gun; HARVEY L. MARLETT, Warner, S. D., and C. MARLETT, Fargo, N. D., self-heating dinner pail; WILL S. METCALF, Flandreau, S. D., plow coupler; WILLIAM NEWTON, Minneapolis, Minn., starching machine; CAESAR WILSON, Litchfield, Minn., plow attachment.  
MERWIN, LOTHROP & JOHNSON, Patent Attorneys, 911 & 912 Pioneer Press Bldg., St. Paul.

#### A Mean Man.

The Mean Man was looking happy. "Whose feelings have you hurt now?" he was asked.  
"My nephew's," he said. "I have just sent him a letter asking him to accept the inclosed \$100 check as a little birthday gift."  
"But where does your speciality come in on such a proposition as that?"  
"I didn't put in any check."—Indianapolis News.

A Book of Choice Recipes sent free by Walter Baker & Co.'s Ltd., Dorchester, Mass. Mention this paper.

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#### EXCURSION RATES

to Western Canada and particularly as to how to secure 100 acres of the best wheat-growing land on the continent can be secured on application to Supl. of Immigration, Ottawa, Canada, or the undersigned. Specially conducted excursions will leave St. Paul, Minn., on the first and third Tuesday in each month, and specially low rates on all lines of railway are quoted for excursions leaving St. Paul on March 26 and April 4 for Manitoba, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Alberta. W. H. ROGERS, Watertown, S. D.

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