Agriculture.

The Aroma of Butter.

A professor in an agricultural college of Denmark says:—

Is the aroma of butter due to aromatic principles pre-existing in the milk, or not? According to the generally received opinion, the aromatic principles of butter already exist in the milk as given by the cow, and pass from the milk into the cream, and from the cream into the butter, unless they be destroyed by chemical decomposition during the process of cream-raising or of churning. My experience does not confirm this opinion. On the contrary, it puts it beyond a doubt that the aromatic principles of butter do not exist in natural milk, and that it is the decomposition of the principles of this latter—probably of even utterly inodorous principles—that gives rise to the aroma of butter. If the temperature of the milk when set for cream be from 10 degrees to 12 degrees C. (50 degrees to 53.6 degrees F.) or more, it decomposes, forming lactic acid and several other new principles, among them aromatic principles; and it needs but to churn the cream to obtain an aromatic butter. If, on the other hand, the temperature of the milk at such time be near freezing point, the decomposition necessary for the production of aromatic principles is held in check, and, consequently, the aroma of butter obtained from fresh cream is so feeble that it is not perceptible to persons accustomed to butters prepared as above indicated, in the same way as French butters are made at present. But if it be desired to obtain a more aromatic butter, all that is required is to place the cream in circumstances favorable for lactic fermentation, and a few hours will produce the required result. In either case, the aroma formed may be more or less agreeable; that all depends on the fundamental principles of the milk, on the quantity of principles necessary for the formation of aromatic principles that is present, and on the method of manipulation employed. In either case, again, the appearance of aromatic principles is accompanied by that of lactic acid. Whether the aromatic principles sought for in butter are produced by lactic fermentation, by a simultaneous general fermentation, or by several fermentations combined, I do not know. In practice it will often be noticed that lactic fermentation is accompanied by alcoholic fermentation, and even by butyric fermentation. What then is chemical composition of the aromatic principle so much admired in butter? Is it an alcohol, a compound ether, or perhaps even a fatty acid, nauseous in a state of concentration, but agreeable in a more moderate form? I know not. The fact that the valued aroma soon becomes rancid, and that it is always met with in conjunction with fatty matters, leads one to suppose that there is some relation between the fatty acids and the aroma. To solve this interesting question, elaborate experiments would be required; but meanwhile this is certain: that *without decomposition there is no aroma*, at least no aroma in the ordinary sense of the word. Such are the observations on the aroma of butter which I made in the course of my teaching at the dairy attached to the Copenhagen Royal Agricultural College some few years ago.

To Suppress Running Weeds.

A writer in the *Country Gentleman* says:—

A gentleman whose door-yard had become infested with the running plant commonly known as "moneywort," and to botanists as *Lysimachia nummularia*, remarked to us: "I would gladly give two hundred dollars to be rid of that weed, for it is driving the grass from the lawn, and I cannot kill it. Hoeing it up only increases the growth."

Another owner of a handsome residence said that one of the worst weeds he met with was the *Vinca minor*, or periwinkle, often called myrtle, which gradually spread over his grounds without his being able to check it. These are both running plants, which root freely from their prostrate stems, and thus the whole surface is gradually covered by them to the exclusion of grass and everything else. The owners have asked us for a remedy, and we propose therefore to give a few general and particular directions, applicable to these and all other weeds of a similar character.

All plants are killed if excluded during their growing season from air and light. With nearly all, a few months are sufficient. If kept constantly buried they are effectually destroyed in one season. But most people do the work at the halves; they are kept well under most of the time, but occasionally allowed to peep above ground, take breath, and start off again with vigor. A very few small leaves are sufficient to send new life down through all the roots. This was the reason the gentleman above mentioned did not kill his patch of moneywort by hoeing. This is the reason that so many fail in attempting to destroy patches of Canada thistle, snapdragon and quack grass. The plants are allowed repeatedly to recover what they have lost. Canada thistles turned under deeply with the plow, by the 1st of June or sooner, and afterwards often enough to prevent a single green point from coming to the surface, will be forever and effectually killed by the 1st of October, as we have satisfactorily proved on more than one occasion. We have seen farmers attempt the same treatment on quack grass, but they entirely failed for want of thorough work. But those who have taken hold of this weed and kept it always under have succeeded without difficulty, of which some interesting instances might be cited.

But in established lawns and door-yards the plow and harrow cannot be introduced. The work must be done by hand. The owner of a lawn wishes advice how to treat a patch of an inveterate running weed which has taken possession of a portion of his handsome grounds. Probably the easiest way would be to trench under the whole, so as to throw all the plants with every portion of their roots, deeply under the soil, and then turf the surface. It will of course be absolutely necessary not to allow a single fragment of the weed to escape, or else the trouble will soon be as bad as ever. If the roots run too deep to be thoroughly treated in this way, a few inches of the surface may be removed and carted to some place where no harm can be done, and then the whole surface effectually covered with tarred felt, such as builders use. The tar will prevent the weeds from pushing through. Then over this a coat of earth and a covering of turf may be laid. It may be that some kind of coarse paper or pasteboard, not tarred, might be used in sufficient layers to exclude the passage of the plants, and to rot by the second year and prevent the drouth which would occur with an impervious stratum a few inches below the surface.

In the early part of the present century, when the Canada thistle was spreading into some of the States where it was unknown before, it excited great alarm, and land-owners very properly attempted to extirpate it before it obtained large possession of their farms. They began by digging it up. But this process only cut the roots into pieces, each of which sent up a new plant. Others resorted to plowing, with similar want of success. It was discovered that the roots ran down into the subsoil, in some instances several feet, and attempts were made, with incredible labor, to dig down and follow every root. But some were broken off and left behind, and the result was failure. It would have been immeasurably easier, and at the same time effectual, if the weed had been smothered at the surface. Plowing under is better than attempting to destroy them with the hoe, because when turned in deeply, some weeks are required to reach the surface, and if the plowing is repeated in time, they are kept continually smothered. With the hoe, the surface only is reached, and the plants cut off to-day may be again above ground to-morrow, and no progress at all made in killing them.

Cheap Poultry Yard.

A farmer writes:—

Set posts firmly in the ground, six feet high, eight feet apart. Take No. 9 wire, and stretch from post to post outside, fastening with staples made of wire driven into posts. Place three wires one inch apart, one foot from the ground; another three at three feet ten inches from the ground; another three at top of posts. Take common laths and weave in, leaving three inches space between sides of each. This makes the fence four feet high. Then take other laths, picket one end, and chamfer the other like a chisel blade, and interweave among the top wires; then shove the chamfered edge down beside the top of the bottom lath, lapping under wires two inches. This makes a cheap, durable, pretty fence, that is seven feet and ten inches high, and fowl-tight. Wires should be left somewhat slack, as interweaving the laths will take it up.

Domestic.

THE PARLOR.—A writer in the *Rural New Yorker* says:—What horrible associations crowd into our mind when the word "parlor" is mentioned. We immediately picture in our imagination the terrible oppressiveness of that best room, where the sun is never allowed to shine for fear of fading carpet and furniture; where the chairs all have a stately polished and stiff look about them; where the children are never allowed to enter; where what little air there is may never be allowed to change; and where the smell is something akin to that of a family tomb. This is the best room, and is too sacred for the use of the family, and is only kept for purposes of ceremony and for the convenience of those people who do not care a rush.

People whom we like and with whom we are on familiar terms, come right into the living-room and have a good chat in a pleasant way; but the ceremonious visitor whose departure gives us relief, is ushered into the parlor. The principle upon which this room is founded is all wrong. Let us have no such room in the house. Open the shutters and windows. Admit the sunlight and air; if the carpets and furniture fade, let us enjoy their use in that condition. Let us not have any tomb in our home, where all should be cheerfulness and brightness. Abolish the "parlor" and enjoy the home.

A VAPOR BATH AT HOME.—A vapor bath may be easily prepared by taking a pail about half full of hot but not quite boiling water, which may be placed under a cane-bottom chair, if one is at hand, or, if not, a narrow piece of wood may be placed across the pail, and the patient should sit on it for about half an hour, with a blanket over his shoulders, reaching to the floor to keep in the steam. Should any faintness be felt, it is a sign that the water is too hot, and the blanket may be laid open for a short time to allow the steam to escape. These simple remedies are within the reach of every one, and if promptly resorted to, on the first appearance of a cold, will save many a dollar in doctor's bills.

BOILING WATER.—It is a mistaken idea that the boiling of water purifies or renders it better for dietetic purposes. The boiling water drives off the carbonic acid gas, which is one of its most salubrious constituents, and it concentrates the impurities of water by driving some off portion of pure water or steam.

ORNAMENTAL FROSTING.—For this purpose have syringes of different sizes, draw any one you may choose full of icing, and work it in any design you may fancy. The cake must first be covered with plain frosting, which may be white or colored—pink, with powdered cochineal; blue, with a little indigo; brown, with a little chocolate finely grated; green, with a little spinach juice.

CREAM MUFFINS.—Mix one pint of sour cream (but not very sour), one pint of flour, three eggs, one teaspoonful of salt, one half-teaspoonful of soda or saleratus, whites and yolks of eggs beaten separately. Stir in the whites the last thing. They are much nicer baked in new cups, which can be bought of a cheap kind. Wipe them clean with a dry cloth; never wet or grease them; in a short time the muffin will shine like varnish on the side next the cup.

HASHED MUTTON.—Cut the cold mutton into slices as uniform as possible; flour them, pepper and salt them, put them into a stewpan, with some gravy made of an onion stewed with whole pepper and toasted bread, in a pint of water, to which a little walnut catsup has been added—this gravy should be stewed two hours before using—do not let the hash boil; when it is done, add a little thickening of butter, flour and water, if required, and serve up with slices of toasted bread.

ESSENCE OF CHICKEN.—In a case of extreme sickness, when it is important that what little nourishment the patient can take should be highly condensed, the following is an excellent mode for concentrating, in a small compass, all the nutritive properties of a chicken: After picking the chicken, sprinkle a little salt over it and cut in pieces, as if for frying. Put the pieces in a small glass jar (or wide-mouthed bottle,) stop it tight, and put in a pot of cold water, gradually heating the latter till it boils. Let the jar of chicken remain in the water till the juices are well extracted, then pour them off for the patient.

A CUP OF COFFEE.—To make a cup of good coffee an essential art is requisite. Many women who pride themselves, and justly, upon their skill fail here. For early risers and those who require an early breakfast there is a mode of making coffee so generally practised as to be almost universal in this country, and that is simply to boil the ground coffee for a few minutes, and either settle the grounds with cold water or give them time to settle gradually. This mode can be greatly improved by corking the spout with a cork, cloth or paper, thus preventing the escape of the steam, which arises from the boiling coffee. By the escape of the steam we lose much of the aromatic flavor that renders coffee so palatable. Let those who cook coffee after this method try our plan, and they will find a vast improvement. An eminent chemist recommends the following as a favorite way of making this now universal beverage: Three-fourths of the coffee should be boiled and the remaining fourth infused, after which the whole should be mixed. By this means both the strength and flavor are increased. To preserve the flavor of ground coffee it should be wet with the syrup of sugar and then covered with powdered sugar; in this way the volatile parts of the coffee are prevented from escaping. As heretofore said, coffee, after being roasted, should be kept excluded from the air and kept in a dry place if not used at once, as it absorbs from the atmosphere and gradually loses its flavor.

Scientific.

Medicinal Plants in California.—It has long been known that the climate of our Pacific States offers singular advantages for the cultivation of certain foreign plants from which valuable medicines are extracted. It is only quite recently, however, that the flora of that coast has been specially studied with a view to ascertain the economic value, for medicinal purposes, of the native plants. A chemist of California has given this subject special attention, and finds that there are many plants there whole products are called for in modern pharmacy. The *Eucalyptus globulus*, the *Yerba buena*, and the *Canchalagua*, are already widely known. The *Grindelia robusta*, which grows throughout the State, supplies a balsam of the resinous character, most abundant in the buds, but found in all the juices of the plant. As a cure for the eruption occasioned by contact with the "poison oak," the balsam is accounted almost a specific. It is also in demand in the Atlantic States as a remedy for asthma and bronchial affections. The leaves of the eucalyptus, serving as the stuffing of a pillow, have been found beneficial in relieving neuralgic headaches; and a tincture prepared from the leaves has a variety of uses in medicine. One of the newest of vegetable drugs is obtained from *Yerba santa*, a shrub known also as gum weed, mountain balsam, wild peach and bears' weed. The leaves contain a resinous substance highly spoken of as an ingredient in cough mixture, and for the cure of bronchial and laryngeal disorders. The collection and drying of medicinal plants in California, for shipment to manufacturing chemists at the East, is gradually becoming a business of importance.

Chloride of Lime.—A new process for the expeditious manufacture of dry chloride of lime has been invented by Mr. E. Maletra, of Paris, which consists in the employment of mechanical means for stirring, agitating, or mixing the powdered lime and the chloride of lime as fast as it is formed, in such a manner as to expose all the molecules of these substances in succession to the continuous action of the gaseous chlorine, which is introduced under favorable conditions for combining with the lime, and is rapidly absorbed by the latter In order to insure regularity, it has been found necessary to couple at least two apparatuses together, so as to admit of the chlorine being directed into either, as required. The process is very rapid, and is carried out with great facility, and without any waste of chlorine. The progress of the operation may be constantly watched by persons near the apparatus, which emits no injurious odors. The apparatus is cheap in construction, and occupies but small space. The manufacture may be regulated at will, as examples of absolute homogeneity (as may be ascertained by testing) may be taken at any time during the operation. As the chloride of lime manufactured in this manner is homogeneous in every part, it is not liable to become decomposed, as is the case with chlorides manufactured in layers, more or less deep, and in a state of rest, and a source of considerable loss is thereby avoided in the manufacture of this product, which is liable to deterioration from the influence of climate and other influences resulting from its composition.

Lead-Poisoning in a New Form.—According to *The Journal of Materia Medica*, there is serious danger lurking in the covering employed for children's carriages or wagons. Thus, in Germany, where this enameled or leather cloth is largely used, such danger has been confirmed by the occurrence of numerous cases of child sickness among those who have been carried about in the little vehicles that are covered with this cloth, the symptoms being invariably those of lead-poisoning. An investigation was recently undertaken at the instance of the Imperial Health Office, and, in the different specimens of such cloth, both of German and foreign make, the enormous quantity of 45.7 per cent. of metallic lead was found; from a piece of cloth weighing ten grams, a mass of lead weighing 4.25 grams could be obtained. The fabric burned readily and drops of lead reduced to the metallic form could be seen running off, even when only a small piece of it was ignited.

Great Landslide.—In certain portions of our western plains, great "sinks," as they are called, have at times taken place. Few of them can compare, however, with one that occurred near the village of Draguignan, in the department of Var, about forty miles north of Toulon, France. There, one day, an area of more than 10,000 square feet sunk suddenly to a depth of 100 feet. The bottom of the hole thus formed was soon covered with water; the hole itself is of an oval form. From the sudden appearance of water at the bottom, it is supposed that the ground had been previously undermined by a subterranean watercourse, which seems the more likely, since there is a record of a similar occurrence there about a century ago.

Fighting the Flames.—We find in the *National Firemans' Journal* much interesting information bearing on the general subject of water supply; whether fires are best extinguished by a stream of spray, or by a solid mass of water, is discussed. The best opinion and experience being in favor of the latter method. The editor thinks that in order to secure the greatest effect in the shortest space of time in fighting fire in high buildings in the cities, we must be able to control greater volumes of water; consequently that apparatus of greater capacity must be provided. The science of conveying water long distances horizontally and vertically for fire extinguishing purposes is yet in its infancy.

A new armor-plating, formed of hexagonal sections of fluid-compressed steel arranged in concentric rings, recently stood a very successful test at Manchester, England, receiving a 250-pound Palliser shell, fired from a 9-inch gun, with 50 pounds of pebble powder, and from a distance of 30 yards, without material injury.

Humorous.

—Even a barrel hoop will turn when trod upon.

—A Columbus man says he started thirty years ago to make $1,400,000. He has got the fourteen, but the ciphers bother him.

—Philosophers say that closing the eyes makes the hearing more acute. This is why we always close our eyes at church.—*Omaha Republican.*

—The face of the earth must be growing narrower. In many places individual failures are charged directly to the shrinkage of real estate.—*Picayune.*

—"No noose is good news," exclaimed the fellow who was about to be hanged, when the Sheriff informed him of his pardon.—*Hackensack Republican.*

—The owner of the Natural Bridge in Virginia has lately been adjudged a bankrupt. Any person wanting a good bridge cheap can bid at the sale.—*Picayune.*

—Should the church level its canons at round dancing, young America will be sure to find some way to dodge the balls or dance around them.—*Richmond State.*

—One of the most remarkable of American exhibits at the Paris Exposition on the opening day was a Cincinnati woman in a last year's hat.—*Andrew's Bazar.*

—A cynical old practitioner says: "A lady who practices medicine commits two faults—she increases the number of doctors and diminishes the number of women."

—A Chicago man has written to one of the Astors: "Send me one million dollars, or prepare to die." How grand it would be to die in defence of a million dollars.—*Free Press.*

—Advice to young writers: If you would be clear and forcible, don't use foreign words. Be natural. A man never stops to hunt up a foreign word when he is stung by a hornet?"—*Oil City Derrick.*

—Progress is still skipping along, knocking old theories topsy-turvy and building up new ones, but she can't quite make out just what the sex of the chicken will be till after the egg is hatched.—*Danbury News.*

—"A young Oil Citizen," remarks the Derrick, "calls his sweetheart Revenge, because she is sweet." And the young married man on South Hill calls his mother-in law Delay, because she is dangerous.—*Hawkeye.*

—A door knob fitted to receive and exhibit the photograph of the head of the house has been invented. They will probably have a slow sale until families can determine who is the head of the house.—*New Haven Register.*

—The *Hawkeye* reports that several Americans have been guillotined in Paris for persisting in speaking the French language. The French Government justifies its course by saying that the people of France can't stand everything.

—An appreciative mind can throw a world of pathos into a very ordinary statement. "Yes," said she, leaning over the fence, in communion with a neighbor, "she is dead. She died just as she had got torn up to clean house. It is terrible."—*Ex.*

—"Anything new or fresh this morning?" a reporter asked in a railroad office. "Yes," replied the lone occupant of the apartment. "What is it?" queried the reporter, whipping out his note-book. Said the railroad man, edging toward the door, "That paint you are leaning against." Such are the loads a newspaper man must bear.—*Keokuk Constitutioa.*

—We are grateful, grateful, grateful that the Exposition is in Paris this year. We would rather it had been in Schipka pass, but even as it is, there will be comparatively few people this year come in to wake us up at 1.30 A. M. to say, "I have just returned from the Centennial, and——" (None of them ever gets any father than this.)—*Hawkeye.*

—They were standing at a window. "In looking out doors do you notice how bright is the green of grass and leaves?" asked an elderly gentleman of a little Danbury girl, whose home he was visiting.

"Yes, sir."

"Why does it appear so much brighter at this time?" he next asked, looking down upon the bright sweet face with tender interest.

"Because ma has cleaned house and you can see out better," she said.

The elderly gentleman sat down.—*Danbury News.*

—An intelligent farmer living in Des Moines County has invented a henophone, modelled on the principle of the telephone, by which one reliable old hen occupying a central office in the hennery sits on all the nests about the establishment, leaving the other fowls free to lay eggs, scratch and cackle. As fast as a new nest contains the full completement of eggs, it is connected with the central office by a copper wire, and the business is settled. The only trouble with the machine is that it sits so hard it hatches out the porcelain nest eggs along with the others, so that one chick in every nest is born with glass eyes, and the farmer has to buy and train a dog to lead it around. This makes it expensive.—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

THE HUMAN GARDEN.

Look at your flour garden, lying yonder before your windows. You know what care you must give it if you would have it prosper—how must you train the tender vines, and water the young plants, and weed and loosen the soil. Left to itself, great weeds would soon choke the flowers; and, though you find it hard to have as many roses as you want, it would be difficult to be rid of the crop of nettles that would spring up if you forgot those beds for a week.

So it is with a human garden. The bad things grow faster than the good, and without help, too; while you must not only help the early blossoms—the human herbs of virtue—but fight for them against the human weeds.

It is romantic and pretty to say that good always triumphs, and that the right is always victorious, but it is not true; and those who have power should always remember this.

One of the noblest tasks a great man can take upon himself is to weed the human garden and give the good, the pure, and the honest plants a chance to bear flowers and fruit, of which those stinging nettles, evil men, are always striving to rob them.

MAD DOG.

A medical practitioner of the last century proclaims the following as "a certain method of knowing whether a dog, when he hath bitten any person, be really mad. Rub the throat, teeth and gums of the dead dog with a piece of dressed meat, then offer it to a living dog. If he refuseth it with crying and howling, the dog was certainly mad; but if the victuals are well-received, there is nothing to fear."

—A cat-bird was caught in a novel trap at Canton, Mass., the other day. It lit on the half open shell of a fresh water clam, which suddenly closed on its claws, holding it a prisoner till a woman set it free.

"VITALIZED PHOSPHATES" have been largely used by the Medical Profession for the relief of General Debility, Loss of Nervous Power, Consumption, Scrofulous Diseases, Failure of Memory and Brain Power, whether caused by overwork, indiscretions, or excesses; Sleeplessness, Restlessness and Difficult Teething of Children, and all Disorders of Debility. Within three years the Profession have used about 150,000 bottles with the very best results. For sale by all Druggists. F. CROSBY, No. 666 Sixth Avenue, New York.

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The following testimonial is taken at random from the many similar ones which the Franklin Company, Manufacturers of Miasmine, 564 & 566 Hudson St. New York, are receiving daily. Hundreds of certificates, conclusive as to its speedy and certain cure of ALL FORMS OF MALARIAL DISEASE, are on file at the Company's office. All suffering from such maladies are invited to send for their circular, containing a full explanation of the cause, symptoms and cure of Miasmatic Poisoning. Ask your Druggist for Miasmine. It is for sale at the principal drug stores everywhere:

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Yours, sincerely, PERRINE E. REID.

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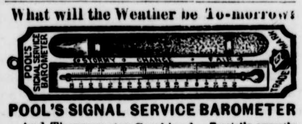

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