

Woman's Sphere.

FOL-DE-ROL.

Farm and Garden.

The reason a woman makes a success of poultry raising is a rule is because she is careful, watchful and mindful of all the small details.

CONCRETE FOR HOUSE BUILDING.

Mixture Is Cheap and It Makes a Good Structure.

Each summer brings changes in the design of houses of moderate cost and in the materials used in their construction, says the New York Post.

Within recent years concrete has been used extensively and it is becoming more and more popular. Concrete is only a mixture of cement, sand, stone and water, the proportions varying with the particular application. For ordinary building purposes, one part of cement, two and one-half to three parts of sand, and five to seven parts of stone, moderately well moistened with water, make a good mixture.

Concrete has been used for centuries. During the days of King Solomon, walls and arches were built of it, and many of them are still in a good state of preservation. The invention and development of machinery for making the mixture and molding it into blocks has rendered it possible to use quantities of concrete. During the past year 35,000,000 barrels of cement were used in the United States alone, as compared with about 200,000 twenty-five years ago. Millions of dollars are now invested in plants and manufacturing cement, concrete mixers and molding machines.

A better house can be built of concrete for the money than of wood, brick or stone. A concrete house can be erected at a cost nearly as reasonable as a wooden one, for about one-half the cost of brick, and one-quarter the cost of stone, and it has the further advantage of costing less to keep in repair.

Sand and stone are generally found near the building site, so the freight and cartage bills can be kept at a minimum. Again, only a few skilled laborers are needed in mixing and placing the concrete, while with brick or stone high-priced men are required and the waste of materials is much greater.

Hollow, machine-made blocks from sixteen to twenty-four inches in length and from six to twelve inches in thickness are used. Now an attractive house can be built with them for about \$4,000. A few years ago such a building could not have been undertaken for two or three times as much. It is easy to obtain a variety of architectural effects, by using different shaped molds for the blocks and adding colors to the concrete.

The air spaces in the blocks have many advantages. The cushion of air keeps the house at a more even temperature, making it warmer in winter and cooler in summer. The spaces are also sometimes used for electric wires and ventilating ducts, etc.

Concrete houses are well adapted for the country, where fire departments are not as efficient as they are in cities. Concrete is non-combustible and such houses may be insured for lower rates than wooden structures.

CONFESSION OF A HUSBAND.

And How He Found His Niche in the World.

In the American Magazine a young husband makes a confession. Following is a brief extract from his autobiography:

"Where youth is coupled with intelligence illusions pass rapidly away. Early in my married life it dawned on me that I was going to be at home for a long stay. I realized that my tenure in business, and even my place in my father's family, were insignificant in their importance when compared with this new relation I had established. I saw that it was the greatest contract I had ever signed. I was also becoming conscious of my relative insignificance in the general scheme of things. It appeared less likely that I should be called away to dig the Panama canal, and more and more probable that I should continue in the daily performance of inconspicuous work."

"Out of all this there came to my wife and me the realization that the greatest chance within our reach lay right there in our two-by-four house. If the world was unappreciative of our unparalleled talents, the world could go hang. We'd use them ourselves."

"And so we set out to mount all difficulties. We haven't done that yet, but we have made a start. I have cultivated my wife's relatives until I have come to the conclusion that they are practically as desirable as my own. My wife has pursued the same attitude toward my relatives to the point where she thinks more favorably of some of them than I do myself."

"We never quarrel in the sense that we harbor and nourish feelings of hate. Sometimes we talk loud, but we keep on talking until our voices run down and become so amiable that it is both safe and restful to break off. I can listen to the reading of choice poetry, and my wife can pretend that she enjoys the dog show. I can sit through the play 'Hamlet,' even keeping my seat while that lunatic Ophelia is on the stage. This is my greatest achievement, but it is more than matched by my wife, who can sit with her back to the wall and appear to be calm while I read aloud Edgar Allan Poe's story of how the rats bothered that fellow in jail."

Very Confidential.

Village Postmistress—And what are those dashes?

Hodge—Oh, he'll understand them right enough.

Postmistress—Yes, but we can't send them by telegraph.

Hodge—Well, they're the price of the place.

Postmistress—Yes, but you must put it in words or figures, else we can't send it.

Hodge—Must I? Well, I'll whisper it to 'ee then!—Punch.

A Solution.

"Do you believe that trouble usually comes single?"

"No, that is why marriage is a failure."—Baltimore American.

The Loom of Dreams.
I broider the world upon a loom,
I broider with dreams my tapestry;
Here in a lonely room
I am master of earth and sea,
And the planets come to me.

I broider my life into the frame,
I broider my love, thread upon thread;
The world goes by with its glory and shame,
Crowns are battered and blood is shed;
I sit and broider my dreams instead.

And the only world is the world of my dreams,
And my weaving the only happiness;
For what is the world by what it seems
And who knows but that God, beyond our guess,
Sits weaving worlds out of loneliness?

—Arthur Symonds.

GENERAL SURVEY OF FASHIONABLE MODES

Directoire Ideas Adapted to All Parts of Costume.

The directoire styles have now to be reckoned with, but no woman of proper taste in dress will forget that there are many occasions when they must either be greatly modified or forced into abeyance altogether. The tight, clinging skirts, if worn properly, do not lend themselves to ordinary pursuits, nor even to street wear, for they only that is only possible in the house or on grass lawns. But worn they will be by all and sundry who hug their fetters of their own making in their blind anxiety to be in the fashion, irrespective of suitability. The loose, long-tailed coats, which are essentially directoire, hardly look amiss on any costume, nor for any occasion.

Fancy a dull, purple suit worn with a hat of Indian red (trimmed with purple roses) and a blouse of the same red; you may imagine it rather dreadful, but as the two colors were admirably chosen and blended the result was very smart, but such a color scheme can come to hopeless grief in incapable hands.

Plain square meshed flannel net is the foundation of many lovely garnitures and emplacements on the autumn gowns. This net lends itself admirably to embellishment with the narrow soutaches and ribbon embroidery enhanced. To execute this work the square mesh foundation, whether machine or hand-made, is usually stretched on an oblong or square wire foundation, and on it is invariably sewn according to design the meandering ribbon, knotted at intervals in the manner of a lover's knot, from which springs out a graceful spray of lily of the valley, forget-me-nots, or other flowers. These decorative sprays are embroidered with satin and stem stitches as soon as the ribbon work is finished. However, for this second part of the work the piece of netting has to be tacked on some solid foundation of linen cloth, or any material, which is cut away after the padded flowers have been well modeled with the needle and cotton or silk, which has evidently to be carried through both the square meshes and the backing. Clever fingers will find little difficulty in utilizing these suggestions in turning out a handsome yoke or trimming for an autumn frock.

Vests for the directoire coats are generally of a different material and color from that of the suit. A lovely combination is a vestee of linen green satin or of copper colored suede with a jacket of dull green. These colors are beautifully combined with collar and long jabot of soft Chantilly lace. The tight cuffs must have a deep frill of the same lace, almost covering the hand.

Then, too, the revers of the directoire coat must be very carefully executed in regard to the proper lines, the size and the color which should be the same as the vest. The least error in correct proportion takes away from their effectiveness and quickly caricatures the style.

Some Corset Wisdom.

Hipless hips being essential, corset economy is a thing of the past.

Get a corset that makes you look thin, even if you go hungry.

Remember, it is the corset makes the figure. Keep trying until it makes a good one.

Do not buy a corset just because it has done wonders for your lumpy friend. Hearsay is as poor evidence in figure building as in law.

The latest corset rivals in length the grocer's bill that has run three months.

Last year you were fitted sitting. This fall you won't be, for you will sit on your corsets. This does not mean curved bones, but unbonded extensions to make an unbroken line.

Best Care of Veils.

If your veil is very much soiled it will not be a difficult matter to bring it back to its original newness. Make a strong lather of white soap, and immerse the veil in it for about a quarter of an hour.

Rinse it in cold water carefully with a little liquid bluing. You can also add perfume to this water. Pass the veil through a thin gum arabic water, or water in which rice has been boiled, and clear it by shaking. Pin evenly on a linen cloth. When dry lay between a piece of thin muslin and iron on wrong side.

To wash your black veil, pass it through hot water in which a small quantity of ox gall has been mixed, together with some perfume. Squeeze, but do not rub it. Rinse in cold water, putting bluing in the last rinse.

Stiffen by dipping in a very thin glue water, made by pouring water on glue. Squeeze and shake out, and dry and iron on the wrong side, the same as the white veil.

The Jeweled Tie.

Not least interesting among the display of novelties at this season are the fancies in jewelry. French concepts that give style to the costume. The latest arrival in the collection is the jeweled tie, a narrow black velvet ribbon, half an inch wide, that passes around the base of the collar, knots at the front, with its tasseled ends hanging as low as the bust. These consist of double triangular pendants, hinged one to the other so that they swing freely, catching the light. The setting is of rhinestones in silver, and the workmanship lovely. With afternoon gowns or toilets of any circumstance these accessories are charming, though too showy, of course, for a shirtwaist, unless it be of the costlier sort.

Puffs Not in Vogue.

The artificial hair puffs that have so long been the craze are entirely out of style. The long rows of curls placed around the back of the head have been too common to be fashionable, and even the three puffs just below the crown are avoided by the well-dressed woman. However, one or two soft puffs of your own hair arranged on the top of the head is permissible.

Dotted Swiss Underwear.

Among the many smart trousseaus the prettiest sets are built of finely dotted swiss. This fabric makes up into dainty garments, and is a change from the regulation plain white muslin. One set has a night gown and chemise in Empire style, cut round at the neck, full over the bust, with beading around the figure under the arms.

Pond Lilies as Trimming.

A toque of pleated tulle is trimmed with large pond lilies, which twine around the brim, the stems entwined in graceful lines and the leaves half hidden in folds of tulle. It is a brilliant and original idea, but as the lilies must, of necessity, be white, the hat itself must be of some color that is not too great a contrast in color.

Revival of Smoking.

That popular fancy work, smoking, has returned into favor for house gowns. It is also widely used for china blouses. It is put on children's frocks at the neck to form a yoke and on the sleeves from waist half way to elbow. It is often done in colored thread on white and cream foundations.

Dainty Sunshades.

Japanese sunshades have come in again and are much used for motor-ing and for informal morning promenades. They are not expensive, and the coloring tones in with almost any costume. They are extraordinarily pretty when carried by a dainty girl clad all in white.

Use of Tunics.

It is seldom that the tunics are used upon the short skirts, but most of the new long skirts are made up in tunic design with the long tunic lines making a handsome finish at each side. The Grecian effects are sought with the tunic much higher at the left side than at the right.

Effects in Skirts.

The slashed skirts which are talked about under various names are responsible for some pretty effects. One will be the placing of a gray material between the pleats of the skirt of sombre material in such a way that it is not seen until the wearer moves and the pleats fly apart.

Jabots on Night Gowns.

The dainty night gowns are now made with wide Dutch collars and fine embroidery, scalloped and edged with lace. Down the front, from collar to waist is a four-inch jabot of lace and embroidery. Here and there are put flecks of colored linen.

Crowns of Flowers.

Some of the new hats have straw crowns with brims made entirely of flowers. Geraniums and hydrangeas are both used.

New Hosiery.

Two-tone effects in stockings are quite the latest thing in hosiery. Brown and gold, gray and rose, blue and green are some of the favorite combinations.

Net and Soutache.

Braded net, which has been used for several seasons, is still one of the most popular trimmings for handsome gowns.

Must Match.

For either house or street wear frock and shoes match in correct costumes.

Fixing Him.

Merchant—I hear you've been kicking because you've got so much to do.

Clerk—Well, yes, sir; I do think that.

Merchant—We'll have to give you so much more to do hereafter that you won't have time to kick.—Catholic Standard and Times.

Modern Modernism.

Wilmot—De Anber is what might be termed a modern artist, isn't he?

Criticus—Yes, but he carries modernism to extremes. Why, he recently painted a portrait of Father Time pushing a lawn mower instead of carrying the conventional scythe.—Chicago News.

Modern Miracles.

Tom—Mrs. Potter tells me her hair turned gray in a single night.

Jack—Knowing a girl whose hair turned yellow in less than an hour.—Detroit Tribune.

God helps them that help themselves.—Franklin.

Black hats trimmed with bright blue or green promise a vogue.

The rough silks are considered the more modish, and then comes taffeta. There is an odd, rather cold-looking blue that is often a color combination with the coral shade.

Among the accessories few articles are more effective than the gauze and chiffon scarfs tinted with coral. Wraps fall in with the lines of the skirt and sometimes dip well into the trains. They are usually sleeveless. Hems of pink are effective when trimming a waist of ecru net or lace, the connection being made under an ecru banding.

Coral shades have simply taken possession of New York city, and have risen to first rank among the popular colors.

Hats for morning wear are very bright looking trimmed with a ruffling of tulle or net in coral of different tones, finished with black wings.

Pekin striped materials is a plain pongee with a self half inch satin stripe, and shantung reminds one of a very close hair line striped mohair.

The popularity of handsome white lace coats worn over long skirts of white or colored muslin or silk has brought about the fashion in less expensive laces.

The tye leaf which is being used to cover or surround the crown of some large straws is especially suited to the girl to whom tailored garments are becoming.

Since fashion herself broke down the bars separating night from day, the princess and the directoire and the Empire models have gone to mill and to meeting alike, or in modern parlance, to shops and to fashionable restaurants.

The fashion of tucking skirts of Pekin striped materials to yoke depth and stitching the tucks at edges gives a yoke effect of solid color below which the daring plaits show the white stripes gradually.

A set of coral studs, pin and belt buckle will finish a white linen frock most effectively, while the hat may be black, banded with the pink velvet held down by a pair of pink wings or black ones, secured by large hat pins mounted in coral.

Coats of plain material with skirts of plaid, check or stripe, so plaited that around the hips there is an appearance of one plain color matching the coat, while below the contrasting colors show with every movement, are among the most chic of the late summer and early autumn tailored models turned out by Parisian makers.

AN HONEST MAN.

Says He'll Pay That Ten-Dollar Bill When He Comes Across It.

"Now, look here, Thompson," remarked Bloom, "it is six months since you borrowed that ten-dollar bill from me."

"Seven," corrected Thompson gravely. "Well, then seven months," snorted Bloom. "And you promised to give it back to me in a week—promised faithfully to return it to me in seven days instead of months."

"I know it," answered Thompson sadly, drawing a memorandum book from his pocket. "That bill was marked No. 672,929. I made this memo, and then I spent the money. Since then I've been trying to recover it."

"But," shouted Bloom, "any other would do as well."

"No," responded Thompson, shaking his head. "I'm a man of my word. When you gave me the bill I said, 'I will return this to you,' and I meant it. Bloom, old man, just as soon as I come across No. 672,929 I'll see that you get it, for I am not the one to go back on my promise."—Harper's Weekly.

By Heaven, Not by Hand.

A woman who is fairly prominent in Philadelphia social circles is blessed—if it is a blessing—with a very high and vivid color, which, when she has been walking fast, looks almost as though it were artificial.

One day last week she had walked briskly down Chestnut street and her cheeks were very red. Two workmen were painting the front of one of the stores and, as she passed, one of them said loudly enough for the words to reach her ears:

"Painted, by heaven!"

"Yes, exactly," said the lady calmly. "Painted, and by heaven!"

Up to Her.

The young housewife was engaging her first cook.

"Of course," she said, "I don't want to have any trouble with you."

"Thin it do be up yerself, ma'am," replied the kitchen lady. "If ye make no complaints O'll make no trouble."—Houston Post.

At His Word.

She—So these are the china bargains you advertised?

Dealer—Yes, ma'am, and they're going for little or nothing.

She—All right, I'll take the blue dish for nothing.—Philadelphia Press.

To Maroon.

The word "maroon" to "set a person on an inhospitable shore and leave him there," a practice that was common among the pirates of the Spanish main, is a corruption of "cimarron," meaning anything unruly, whether man or beast.

The Poor Umpire Again.

Stubbs—Yes, they found that the score had been doctored.

Penn—What happened then?

Stubbs—Oh, the umpire had to be doctored.—Detroit Tribune.

Lapland Dress.

Both men and women in Lapland dress precisely alike. They wear tunics belted loosely at the waist, tight breeches, wrinkled leather stockings and pointed shoes. Their whole appearance, in short, is identical, at least to the casual observer.

Publicity.

"'Twas in the newspaper, and all the world now knows it," is the motto of a leading advertising agency.

"Boy Wanted."

"Wanted—A Boy." How often we see this quite familiar notice. Wanted—a boy for every kind of task that a busy world can find. He is wanted—wanted now and here: There are towns to build; there are paths to clear; There are seas to sail; there are gulfs to span. In the ever onward march of man.

Wanted—the world wants boys today And it offers them all it has for pay. 'Twill grant them wealth, position, fame.

A useful life and an honored name. Boys who will guide the plow and pen; Boys who will shape the way for men; Boys who will forward the tasks begun.

For the world's great work is never done.

The world is eager to employ Not just one, but every boy. Who, with a purpose staunch and true, Will greet the work he finds to do. Honest, faithful, earnest, kind—To good, awake, to evil, blind—A heart of gold without alloy—Wanted—the world wants such a boy.

—The Watchman.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM THE DROUGHT.

Saving Effects of Drainage and Irrigation Where Practicable.

The long and severe drought through which so much of the country has been passing will not have been without benefit to the farmer, if it has impressed upon him the desirability—not to say the absolute necessity—in a climate like ours, of preparing for the recurrence of these long spells of dry weather. Scarcely a year passes that there is not in some part of the growing season a drought, more or less prolonged, when it would be dollars and cents to the market gardener or farmer to be able to carry his crops through the critical period without damage. And the wide-spread up-to-date cultivator will not be slow to take advantage of every opportunity of adding to his knowledge and experience and turning to his profit even adverse conditions.

To a careful observer it has been evident during the last season that crops on well drained fields have suffered less from the drought than those on undrained land. Hence, paradoxical as it may appear, the drought has taught us a lesson in favor of drainage. And the reason for the superiority of such well drained soils is not far to seek. How do they succeed in raising good crops in the dry farming regions of the West? The first and fundamental essential is to provide in the soil a capacious water storage reservoir and an ample space for root development. This is done in the west by deep ploughing; in the East by drainage and deep ploughing combined. The next step is to husband carefully the water thus held by the soil by frequent, thorough, level cultivation before, as well as after, sowing or planting. Our eastern farmers might, indeed, get many valuable suggestions for use in a drought from the experiences gained in the dry farming area, and which may be found in the bulletins of the Colorado and New Mexico stations.

Another obvious provision against drought, and one which has been urged by agricultural leaders and authorities is irrigation; but how few are the attempts to make use of the streams which flow idly by the farms while the crops are withering. I look out from my window across a neighbor's farm of between sixty and seventy acres, lying along a large, never failing creek, some twenty-five feet in width. The fields slope gradually from the creek to a ridge of higher land, bordered by a picturesque country road, and are admirably situated for irrigation. The water supply is abundant, and only needs raising to a very slight elevation in order to overflow probably one-third of the farm. The owner is an intelligent farmer and appreciates the value of irrigation, but during the forty years he has had the farm he has not taken one simple step to utilize the water of the creek.

Here, however, is an example of a different kind. Every reader of The Tribune Farmer will remember the founder of The Tribune, Horace Greeley. Now, as one will claim that Mr. Greeley was a model or successful farmer. He frankly acknowledged himself that his practical knowledge of agriculture was meager and mainly acquired in a childhood long bygone, while of science he had only a smattering. It even then; but he was a thinker, an experimenter, a man of original ideas and breadth of mind. He had traveled, too, extensively, both in this country and in Europe, and was a keen observer; and while he saw, forty years ago, the backward state of American agriculture, he had a lively faith in its future. "I know," he says, "that a majority of the soil fed to too sparingly and stir it too slightly and seedingly. I know that we do too little for it, and expect it, thereupon, to do too much for us. I know that, in other pursuits, it is only work thoroughly well done that is liberally compensated; and I see no reason why farming should prove an exception to this stern but salutary law. I may be, indeed, deficient in knowledge of what constitutes good farming, but not in faith that the very best farming is that which is morally sure of the largest and most certain reward."

Mr. Greeley embodied his ideas and observations in a small work entitled, "What I Know of Farming"—a series of brief and plain expositions of practical agriculture as an art based upon science. It is a book full of valuable suggestions, and should be in every farmer's library. In it, among many other interesting matters, he discusses in several chapters the question of irrigation, and gives the following account of an experiment he made on his own farm at Chappaqua:

"Toward the north end of my farm the hillside which rises east of my

lowland is broken by a swale, or terrace, which gives me three or four acres of tolerably level upland, along the upper edge of which five or six aprinks, which never wholly fail, burst from the rocks above and unite to form a petty runnel, which dries up in very hot or dry weather, but which usually preserves a tiny stream, to be lost in the swamp below. North of the gully and down the lower hillside by this streamlet the hillside of some three acres is quite steep, still partially wooded, and wholly devoted to pasturage. Making a petty dam across this runnel at the top of the lower acclivity, I turned the stream aside, so that it should henceforth run along the crest of this lower hill, falling off gradually so as to secure a free current, and losing its contents at intervals through variable depressions in its lower bank. That rude and petty contrivance has now been ten years in operation, and may have cost \$5 per annum for oversight and repairs. Its effect has been to double the grass grown on the two acres it constantly irrigates.

"I know this is small business, but suppose each of the hundred thousand New England farms, whereof five to ten acres might be thus irrigated at a cost not exceeding \$100 a farm, had been similarly prepared to flow those acres last spring and early summer with an average increase therefrom of barely one ton of hay (or its equivalent in pasturage) an acre. The five hundred thousand tons of hay thus realized would have saved two hundred thousand head of cattle from being sent to the butcher while too thin for good beef, while every one of them was required for further use, and will have to be replaced at a heavy cost. Shall not these things be considered?"

"I would counsel every farmer to give his land a careful scrutiny with a view to irrigation in the future. No one is obliged to do any faster than his means will justify; and yet it may be well to have a clear comprehension of all that may ultimately be done. If long remain unattempted. * * * If a manageable stream crosses or issues from his land, he must measure its fall thereon, study the lay of the land, and determine whether he can or cannot, at a tolerable cost, make that stream available in the irrigation of at least a portion of his growing crops when they shall need water and the skies decline to supply it. On many, I think on most, farms situated among hills, or upon the slopes of mountains, something may be done in this way—some at once, and with immediate profit."

"And if the drought has shown us the necessity for under drainage and irrigation wherever practicable, it has also emphasized the great value of what is known as the 'dust mulch'—the constant breaking up of the soil after rainfall by persistent cultivation and the preservation for the use of the crops of the water absorbed by soil bed prepared by draining and ploughing. In preserving this water and preventing its evaporation the humus in the soil plays an important part, and should be maintained and increased by every means at the disposal of the farmer.—P. V. Dutcher, Co. N. Y., in N. Y. Tribune Farmer.

Blackberry Enemies.

Blackberries are affected by borers, and diseases such as crown gall of the roots, and orange rust. The only thing for these is to dig out and burn the affected plants. The leaf spot can be controlled by the spraying with Bordeaux mixture, and if this is regularly used it will probably prevent the appearance of the orange rust, but is of no use after the rust shows.

Cowpeas Profitable.

The cowpea can be grown successfully over a wider extent of territory and on a greater variety of soils than any other legume, and there are few farms on which it cannot find a profitable place.

Storing Onions.

Considerable care is necessary in storing onions through the winter without loss. They should be entirely free from dampness when put away. Store on scaffolds or in shallow bins, but never pile them.

Planting Cowpeas.

Thorough preparation of the soil before planting is as profitable for cowpeas as for any other crop, the greater the care in this respect, the greater the satisfaction and profit in the yield.

Use All the Land.

There should be no idle land in a well-managed garden. As soon as one crop has matured the land should be put in another crop, or if it is in the fall some sort of cover crop should be sown.

AROUND THE FARM.

Don't hang up the brush scythe until you have made a circuit of the fence corners.

Whitewash the stable, and if the horse gnaws the stalls paint the wood with tar.

Sore shoulders on horses are as often caused by rough and dirty collars as those which are ill-fitting.

Bad neighbors are often the product of bad fences. Mend up and quit your fussing.

Cement floors in the hog pen are good if covered with plenty of good bedding.

The horse is made or marred by his first year. Start him right, and keep him going right if you would make horse raising pay.

One acre of turnips will provide feed for 25 or 30 sheep for three months. Did you grow any? A mistake, if you did not.

The hired man has rights. Try to give him a square deal and he will appreciate it and generally do the square thing by you.