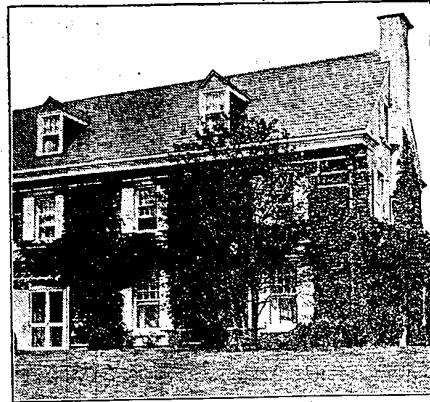


The HOME BEAUTIFUL

Flowers and Shrubby

Their Care and Cultivation



Climbing Plants as an Aid to Beauty.

BEAUTY OF CLIMBING PLANTS

By E. VAN BENTHUYSEN.

The permanent climbing plants and the annuals have a decided place on the home grounds. They fill a place that trees, shrubs and flowers cannot. They not only screen unsightly objects, but serve as a shade, a protection and when trained carefully over outbuildings, stone walls and porches they help to make a picture of the home surroundings.

Three of the best clinging vines are the Boston ivy, English ivy and the trumpet vine. They are best on brick or stone walls as they are apt to cause decay if allowed to climb over shingles and woodwork.

Japanese honeysuckle is of quick growth and great beauty. Its delicate odor and luscious foliage are desirable qualities. Any of the honeysuckle family are good where dense shade is not requisite. The crimson Rambler is another great favorite. It is particularly beautiful when grown over white trellises.

Where one wishes to change the location of vines yearly the annuals are necessary. Among the number of beautiful annual climbers the morning glory takes a leading place. The moonflower and cypress and canary bird flower are other beautiful vines, easily grown.

To start the seed of Moonflower and Morning glory cut the seed a little on one side and soak overnight in warm water, plant in a window box or seedbed and transplant out of doors when the ground is warm.

Wild cucumbers and Japanese or native hop are hardy vines and make a dense green shade. Hyacinth bloom is very pretty and a profuse bloomer. Never allow vines to grow up over the house. Place a trellis at least two feet from the house wall to allow a free circulation of air. This applies to all kinds of climbers; as soon as they begin to form runners give them a support.

Sweet peas and nasturtiums form excellent low, ornamental screens. Planted early in a rich soil they will grow to the height of five or six feet and cover a support of that height. Decayed vegetable matter and leaf mold are fine fertilizers for the sweet pea.

THE WINDOW GARDEN

By BESSIE L. PUTNAM.

On a cold, windy day, avoid placing potted plants on the ledge formed by the meeting of the upper and lower sash.

Unless the window is more than usually tight, there will be a cold draft which is always injurious to plants.

Horticultural NEWS

COVER CROPS FOR ORCHARDS

Means Provided for Preventing Winter Soil Erosion, and to Hold Moisture in Spring.

(By C. W. RAPP, Department of Horticulture, Oklahoma Agricultural College.)

Any orchardist who neglects cover crops is missing a good opportunity for improving his orchard. Cover crops are almost essential. Its use offers a means of preventing winter soil erosion, adding humus and retarding fall growth of trees.

Cover crops are especially important in hillside orchards. If the soil in these orchards is left bare the heavy fall, winter and spring rains will wash off the top soil and reduce the land to a rough, infertile condition. Cover crops will largely prevent this erosion and will also cause large amounts of water to be held in the soil during the winter and spring.

Oklahoma soils are generally deficient in humus and nitrogen. The summer cultivation which is recommended for orchards in this state prevents the growing of summer crops. Cover crops are, however, beneficial to the orchard, and when plowed up in the spring aid greatly in improving soil conditions.

Wet falls are especially trying to orchards. The wet weather causes the trees to take on new growth which is easily winter-killed. Cover crops will aid greatly in preventing this growth. They utilize the surplus moisture and the result is that late growth is largely prevented.

When the fall and spring are especially adapted to Oklahoma conditions. These crops should be planted as soon as possible in order to get well established before cold weather. This early planting is especially important in case of wet weather conditions.

BID THE THRUSHES WELCOME

These Birds Do Farmer Little Harm and Much Good—Hard to Over-estimate Their Value.

That the group of birds in which are included robins and bluebirds do a great deal of good and very little harm to agriculture, is the conclusion reached by investigators who have carefully studied the food habits of these birds. Altogether there are within the limits of the United States eleven species of thrushes, five of which are commonly known as robins and bluebirds. The other six include the Townsend solitaire, the wood thrush, the gray-cheeked, the olive-backed and the hermit thrushes.

The robins and bluebirds nest close to houses, and even the shyest of the other species are content with the seclusion of an acre or two of woodland or swamp. For this reason these are among the best known and most carefully protected of native American birds, and at times their numbers become so great that it is feared they will do much harm to crops and fruit. Recent investigations, however, show that there is very little ground for this fear. On the other hand, they destroy



The Bluebird.

such a vast number of insects each year that it is probable that without them many crops would suffer serious damage.

The bluebird has not been accused, as far as known, of stealing fruit or of preying upon crops. An examination of the crop contents of insects and their allies, while the other 32 per cent is made up of various vegetable substances, found mostly in stomachs taken in winter. Beetles constitute 21 per cent of the whole food, grasshoppers 22, caterpillars 10, and various other insects 9, while a number of spiders and myriapods, about six per cent, comprise the remainder of the animal diet. All these are more or less harmful, except a few predaceous beetles, which amount to 9 per cent. In view of the large consumption of grasshoppers and caterpillars, it is at least condone this offense, if such it may be called.

Arranging Protectors. In putting the tree protectors around the tree, it is not advisable to wrap them tightly around it; it is better for the tree to have an air space between the protector and the bark. If the trouble is mainly due to rabbits, the tree protector would undoubtedly be better than the mounding method, the latter being more efficient in the control of mice.

Thinning Fruit. Thin the fruit if it needs it. Thinning is better than props under limbs—better for your purse and for the trees.

The DAIRY



FIRST-CLASS DAIRY STABLES

Quarters for Milking Cows Are Separated Entirely From All Other Kinds of Live Stock.

The standard now set for the first-class dairy barns is high. The quarters for the milking cows are separated entirely from all other stock, even from the younger dairy stock. The barn must be narrow, not housing more than two rows of cows. The window surface is to be relatively very large, the walls smooth, floors not absorbent and easily washed. Ventilation by a systematic arrangement of ducts, has to be provided.

The new order of construction is the result of the more general understanding of the power of sanitation and cleanliness in the prevention of disease. Milk is perhaps the most widely used uncooked food. Little



Interior of Modern Barn.

wonder, then, that the market milk dealer must produce that milk in a room approaching the kitchen in cleanliness.

The type of structure used by the professional dairymen is now clearly known and in the main, adhered to. The problem is the barn for the mass keeping a small number of cows and marketing only the cream or butter. The returns from the latter do not justify costly barns, neither is it now considered, necessarily essential to have the most sanitary structure. While this is true now, there is no warranty of its truth a decade or two hence. Possibly the most modern barns will be considered poor makeshift developments in sanitary science yet to come. Be that as it may, it is advisable for the professional dairymen to build only the best and the smaller dairymen to do so, too. The demands require, he can remodel to the best structure.

FRESH AIR A MILK PRODUCER

Largest Returns Need Not Be Expected From Animals Where Barns Are Poorly Ventilated.

Ventilation of barns usually is even more delicate than window space and to this lack of proper ventilation veterinarians attribute, in a large measure, the prevalence of tuberculosis. But, aside from safeguarding the health of both the owner's family and his cattle, good ventilation is economical.

Perfect assimilation of food is no more possible in the body of an animal without a sufficient supply of air than is perfect combustion of fuel in a furnace with the draft closed.

In order that milk cows or beef animals may respond to an increased ration of feed, more air must be supplied for its combustion surely as that a furnace requires more air for a heavy than a light fire.

In other words—the amount of milk or beef produced by the animal and the amount of heat produced in the furnace depend as much on the air supply as on the amount of food and fuel.

If a barn is poorly ventilated it is futile, therefore, to expect the largest returns in beef or milk for the feed consumed.

AVOID CONTAMINATING MILK

Cow Should Not Be Groomed, Bedded or Fed Immediately Before She Is to Be Milked.

The cows should not be groomed, bedded or fed immediately before milking.

So doing fills the stable air with dust and germs which get into the pail while milking and so contaminate the milk.

The grooming is as good for the cows as good bedding but do it some time during the day when ample time will be left before the next milking to allow the dust to settle.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course, Moody Bible Institute.)
(Copyright, 1916, Western Newspaper Union.)

LESSON FOR MARCH 12

HEROES AND MARTYRS OF FAITH.

LESSON TEXT—Heb. 11:1-12:3.
GOLDEN TEXT—Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.—Heb. 12:1, 2.

There are two kinds of heroism for which medals are awarded in this country. Congress confers a "medal of honor" for distinguished services and extraordinary heroism in war. The Carnegie "hero fund in peace" bestows medals and pecuniary recognition for heroic deeds performed in preserving and rescuing human life, and the first medal thus issued was given to a boy for rescuing another boy from drowning.

1. Faith Defined, v. 1. This is perhaps the most quoted and succinct definition we have of faith. What follows is but the illustration and application of the fact. Faith is an "assurance" (R. V.). The ground of this assurance and conviction is the word of God. (See Rom. 10:17). The only sure ground for a dynamic and intelligent faith is God's word: put to the acid test of experience it never fails.

2. Faith Declared, vs. 2, 3. Faith had been declared and manifested by many illustrations before the death of Stephen:

(a) Abel, at the risk of his brother's anger, obeyed the unseen God and secured his approval; his heroic, martyred spirit still speaks to men (v. 4).
(b) Enoch, the diligent seeker after God, in a world of lawlessness lived a life well-pleasing to him through a faith that made his presence real (v. 5, 6).
(c) Noah (v. 7), a lonely man of faith (Gen. 6:5), chose the unseen God and preached righteousness rather than avoid the ridicule of his neighbors. Noah reckoned the invisible as tangible, continued to build his ark and became a blessing to the race.

(d) Abraham and Sarah (8:12). Not knowing whether they went, by faith these lonely pilgrims unflinchingly followed an invisible God to an unseen country; but a faith greater still led them to "dwell in the land" and not possess it (v. 10). Their faith redeemed them from the more emigrant character. They "looked for a city, which had foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

(e) Moses (23:28) showed his faith by a right choice. He weighed values and had "reasoned" the recompense of reward. His faith "endured, as seeing him who is invisible." Moses saw by faith the "reproach of Christ," that which Christ suffered for the redemption of this world, as being "greater riches than the treasures of Egypt."

These, and others not mentioned, are summarized by their having accomplished ten different things (32-46). In the light of this testimony of heroes is not yet completed. All these mentioned are witnesses, not onlookers. These are they who have testified to God and to the truth of his word. In the light of this testimony and on the same ground of their testimony, we are to do several things:

1. To "lay aside every weight." No runner carries any weight beyond that which is needed. Some things are burdens that are not necessarily sins. Every such thing hinders our running and should be laid aside.
2. "The sin that doth so easily beset us." Literally, that wrap themselves about us as an ill-fitting garment, and which trip or impede the runner's progress. These sins (not sin) are those little devil habits and practices which run, for that reason, be laid aside.

3. "Run with patience the race set before us." There must be steadfastness and endurance. If church members were as faithful in following up as the average business house is, we would have less of lapsed church members and fewer boys and girls who drift away from the Sunday school.

4. "Looking unto Jesus." This is the purpose to his entire spirit and in this category of heroes. He is our "fore-runner" and the perfecter of our faith. Once we get our eyes off him we will stumble and fall in the race.

5. "Let us lay down our armor and follow with God" set before him, be endured the cross" (Phil. 2:6-8). If we would win the race, we must despise the sin which lies in the path of absolute loyalty to God.

6. The work of Jesus and the bestowing of the Holy Spirit who is always with us, is the source, the author of our faith.

There is far too much easy going about the race and too little suffering and almost no privation in our modern church life.

Such a passionless Christianity has produced an indifferent world.

CANADA'S PLANS FOR WAR REVENUE

So Wisely Distributed That Taxation Will Affect Farmers to a Degree Practically Unnoticeable.

So many rumors have been circulated regarding war taxation in Canada that the statement made by Sir Thomas White, Canadian Minister of Finance, of the Government's plans for raising war revenue should be given the widest circulation. Sir Thomas made it clear that the revenue will be raised by taxing the profits of incorporated companies wherever those profits exceed seven per cent, and the profits of unincorporated firms or partnerships when the profits exceed ten per cent. On all such excess profits these companies or firms will have to contribute one-quarter to the Government. Transportation companies, banks, mining, milling, and other companies will be subject to this tax, but life insurance companies, and companies with less than fifty thousand dollars capitalization, and companies, firms, or individuals engaged in agriculture or stock raising, are exempt, and pay no part of this taxation. The only other additional taxation proposed is an increase of fifty cents a barrel in the customs duty on apples, and one-half cent a gallon in customs duty on corn and other oils. It will be noticed that this taxation is being applied in such a way that it does not affect farmers in the slightest degree, except, perhaps, through a small increase in cost of apple oil. The war revenue is to be paid out of the profits of the big firms and companies with capital of over fifty thousand dollars, and even these are allowed seven per cent in some cases, and ten per cent in others. If clear profits before they have to pay any part of this taxation. It will be seen that the whole policy is to place the war expenditure (taxation on those who have been making big profits) on those able to pay it, and to encourage farming and stockraising by exempting farmers and stockraisers from the taxation. This ought to set at rest every rumor that the farmer or the farmer's land is being taxed to pay the cost of the war—Advertisement.

HIS SHARE OF THE HORSE

Interfering Individual Evidently Was Not as Important as He Thought He Was.

A newly admitted member of a big co-operative society boasting sixteen thousand members met one of the society's vans laden with wheat, the driver sitting on the shafts.

The new member, full of the importance of belonging to such a big society, considered it his duty to remonstrate with the driver on his want of consideration toward his horse by placing his own weight on the load instead of walking. The fault-finder wound up by saying: "I'm a shareholder in the society, and therefore part owner of your horse and van." "Shareholder, are you?" responded the coach, pulling a hair out of the horse's tail and handing it to the astonished member, with the remark: "Here's your share of the animal, mister."

He then drove on.

STRAIN ON THE IMAGINATION

Company Was Willing to Believe a Lot, But Longbow's Story Was Too Much for Them.

Mr. Stretcher—Yes, it's cold, but nothing like what it was at Christmas three years ago, when the steam from the engines froze hard and fell on the line in sheets.

Mr. Cuffer—And yet that wasn't as cold as in '87, when it froze the electricity in the telephone wires, and when the train came all the telephones were talking as hard as they could for upwards of five hours.

"Well, gentlemen," said Mr. Longbow, "the coldest year that I can remember was in the Christmas week in '84, when the very policemen had to run to keep themselves warm."

But that was too much, and with silent looks of indignation the other two turned to his own recollections of a man who treated the truth so slightly.

Soon Settled.
Father and mother were having a little chat by the fire before retiring for the night. The future of their little ones was the interesting topic of their conversation.

"Then what about Harold?" said the father presently.

"Ah, Harold," sighed mother, "a shadow crossing her sweet face, 'I sometimes wonder what will become of Harold! He seems to take a fateful delight in hurting his brothers and sisters!'"

"Is that so?" said father promptly. "Then we'd better make him a den list!"

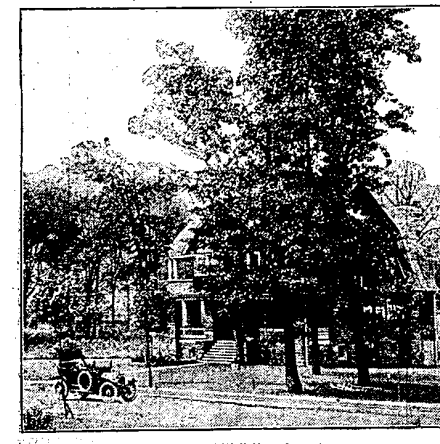
Her Reason.
"Women," remarked the mere man, "are seldom capable of reasoning."

"Don't you believe it," replied the female of the species.

"Why not?" he inquired.

"Well—because," she answered.

Your neighbors haven't any more use for you than you have for them.



The Beauty of Well Kept Grounds.