

MACHINERY on the farm means a good deal. It means that the farmer has invested much capital in a way that is saving him much hard work. It means short days for you and the hired man. It means going to bed later and getting up later. It means less weariness and more opportunity for mind-culture. Thus progress in agriculture not only means more and cheaper food and clothing, but it means greater opportunity for development of manhood. Let us welcome it, then, for the stomach's sake, the body's sake, and the mind's.

To Carry a Plow.

The other day we passed a boy carrying a plow from the field. The horse was attached

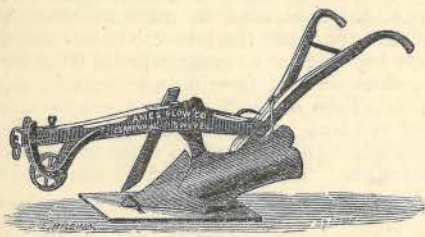


FIG. 14. A PLOW DRAG.

to it, and as the plow-point was fitted into a shoe on a plank for a drag, it ran along smoothly and easily without marring the plow or the road.

Farmers' Clubs of Massachusetts.

First Annual Fair,

OPENING OCT. 2, AND CLOSING NOV. 2, 1878.

We are pleased to note the inception of a farmers' fair under new and novel circumstances. The exhibit is to be at Boston, on Columbus Avenue, two blocks above the Mechanics' Association Fair Buildings, where abundant space has been secured. The premiums are to be given in lectures, the funds received being used to employ lecturers of ability in their several specialties, and the parties receiving premiums being entitled to have a lecturer supplied to their club, grange, or town. "The object of the fair is to show principles as well as products of agriculture, to stimulate a greater development of our resources," etc. We trust our various agricultural organizations will embrace the opportunity now offered them, and that public-spirited individuals will contribute according to their means.

We print the following catalogue of attractions. A. L. Murdock, Jamaica Plain, Mass., is the active manager:—

Every day three instrumental concerts from 11½ A.M. to 1 P.M., 3 to 5 and 7 to 10 P.M. From October 2 to 12, by the Germania Band; from October 14 to 20, by the Cadet Band; from October 21, by Brown's Band.

Every day at 10½ A.M. and 1½ P.M., vocal concerts of agricultural songs, many of them original and from our best writers and composers.

Every evening at 8 P.M., stereopticon views by J. W. Black, of Boston, of our different breeds of animals, and landscapes from different countries, most of them original views.

At the kitchen can be had lunches of any kind of pie, cake, or sandwich, with tea, coffee, or milk, ten cents, and other refreshments as cheap.

Every day from 9 A.M. to 7 P.M., free barges will run to and from Park Square to the grounds, drawn by different herds of Grade oxen. As all work and no play makes the ox a stupid beast, our oxen will perform their games and tricks daily at 9½ A.M. and 6½ P.M., showing that the ox is as intelligent an animal as the noble horse.

Every Monday we shall give a threshing party at 3 P.M., prize \$10. Six entries each day, of two men each. Every Friday a husking party, time and entries the same, prize \$5.

Every Wednesday and Thursday, at 1 and 7 P.M., H. S. Goodell will read his original agricultural poem, "Does Farming Pay?"

October 15, 3 P.M., we shall give a butter party. October 16, 3 P.M., a cheese party free to all exhibitors of the same, and Prof. L. B. Arnold, Secretary of the American Dairyman's Association, will give a lecture each day on the methods, productions, and wants of the different countries. We shall have some thirty to forty brands of foreign butter and cheese from all the chief producing countries, and the same can be sampled by all present. Milk will be furnished from our dairy to the owners of all milk pails, for trial, free of expense. Cream will be furnished from our dairy to the owners of all churns, for trial, free of expense.

Corn in the cob will be furnished the owners of all corn-shellers, free of expense, for trial.

Correspondence.

WE shall gladly welcome correspondence of general interest, from all sections of the country. We trust our friends will not be backward in writing us, even criticising our opinions, and furnishing us facts upon which a correct theory of agriculture may be based.

Correction.

EDITOR SCIENTIFIC FARMER:—

Sir,—In illustrating the "Land Boat" in your August number, the engraver did not quite comprehend the description given in the article accompanying it, and so he lapped the boards the wrong way. This should be understood by any one attempting to build a boat as described. Begin at the back end and nail on the first board, then lap the next one on that an inch or two, and so proceed until the bottom of the boat is covered. The cut represents it lapped the other way, which would make it draw hard.

Yours,

J. A. R.

Berkshire County, Mass.

THE author of "Orchard Grass" in August number of the *Scientific Farmer* may be glad to know that at least one agricultural college has for five years past had from fifty to one hundred and fifty species of grasses and forage plants, all in plots and labelled. A few farmers have studied them with great interest, and many of our students. Most of our visitors are bewildered among so many varieties, and give little attention to them, unless they are accompanied by a guide who knows about them, and remarks on their points of interest.

W. J. BEAL,

Professor of Botany and Horticulture.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE,
Lansing, Mich., Aug. 2, 1878.

Review Notes.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, FOR THE YEAR 1878. PART I.—This old-established and active society deserves well of the public for its publication of the essays and discussions at its frequent meetings. The present number we must pronounce of superior quality, as containing very much of interest in a practical form. "Ripening and Marketing Pears," a prize essay by J. W. Pierce, of West Milbury, Mass., is an interesting and useful production. "Bottom Heat—Its Benefits and Methods," a prize essay by Wm. D. Philbrick, of Newton Center, Mass., is careful, well-considered, and pleasingly written. "Garden Irrigation—Its Advantages and Limits," by the same author, is a readable paper on an important subject. "The Culture and Variety of Roses," by Wm. H. White, of Weston, Mass., presents practical directions of how best to grow this interesting class of plants. The discussion on fertilizers brings up many points of interest. This series of Transactions differs from most, if not all, of those of other societies, in being more general and cosmopolitan in its treatment of horticultural subjects.

ANALYSES AND STATISTICS OF COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS INSPECTED, ANALYZED, AND ADMITTED TO SALE IN GEORGIA DURING THE SEASON OF 1877-78.—This circular covers 127 brands of fertilizer. There were inspected 93,478 tons, an increase of 17,654 tons over the preceding year. The general averages for all fertilizers show continuous improvement, as follows:—

For the season of	Available phosphoric acid.	Ammonia.	Potash.
1874-5	9.23%	2.84%	5.17%
1875-6	10.94%	2.98%	2.49%
1876-7	10.87%	2.73%	2.75%
1877-8	11.43%	2.79%	2.23%

Thomas P. Jones is Commissioner of Agriculture for Georgia, and is doing creditable work in initiating these circulars and kindred measures for the advancement of agriculture in his section.

THE excellent SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY for August comes to us with an article of a rural cast, "Glimpses of New England Farm Life," which clearly shows that the editor, whatever his literary qualifications, has not held the plow-handles. The pictures are drawn from the imagination, we judge. In one, "The Sower," the man is throwing grain from his hand straight forward on a field yet unharrowed. Another shows hay barracks such as were never seen. A third shows a man bearing down mightily on a cultivator. Then there is a picture of a corn-field, the corn in stooks, and the stubble looking as though the seed was broadcasted, while a man is gathering together the pumpkins and loading them.—What for, we know not. It is, perhaps, too much to expect pictures of real farmers in a midsummer number with a fan on the cover, suggesting that it is enough if we keep cool and amuse ourselves in an innocent manner the hot days of the ripening grain.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES ENTOMOLOGICAL COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 1877, relating to the Rocky Mountain Locust, etc. 8vo. Washington, 1878. pp. 477. Appendices, pp. 294. Issued by the Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey. F. V. Hayden, U. S. Geologist-in-charge.—A full and complete treatise concerning the natural history, habits, progress, and prognosis of the locust, dealing with the methods of preventing its injuries, and of guarding against its invasions. The Commissioners were C. V. Riley, the best-known of Western entomologists, A. S. Packard, Jr., who occupies a foremost position in this science, and Cyrus Thomas. Their work seems conscientious, full, and accurate. We would desire this same system of commissions might be extended so as to embrace an agricultural survey of our territorial possessions, and commend this idea to our Commissioner of Agriculture.

THE DANCE OF DEATH by William Herman Third Edition New York: The American News Company, 39 and 41 Chambers street.—We thought, on reading the title, that we were to be treated to a dance by the author, as the title indicates; but we soon found that the author was not writing his own dance-music, but finding fault with the dancing of others. It is probable that dancers will not be converted into non-dancers by reading this book, but those who have not yet learned the art may receive consolation from its pages. We agree, however, with the author, in his continuation and conclusion, that the modern waltz may be the instrument of evil. The book is finely gotten up, and is creditable to its publishers. It is strongly and fearlessly written, with an intensity of expression that is almost startling.

THE HOG: The Varieties to Raise, General Management, and Diseases. By Dr. Thomas Pollard, Commissioner of Agriculture of Virginia. Richmond, 1878. pp. 77.—This is a pamphlet designed especially for Southern readers, and relates the experience of many farmers as given in replies to a circular quite generally distributed throughout the State. It cannot fail to be productive of good in calling attention to the desirability of increasing attention to the rearing of swine, both for home consumption and export. This system of special manuals seems quite a popular one in the more progressive of the Southern States, and must receive the approval of thinking men.

HOW TO BE PLUMP; or, Talks on Physiological Feeding, by T. C. Duncan, M.D.—A book of sixty pages, which tells how the author became plump, and how others can go and do likewise. The author lays stress on the importance of water as a food, as well as the necessity of eating starchy foods and sweets. We cannot but think that there is some weight in the doctor's directions, although we think he overlooks individual idiosyncrasy to an extent hardly justifiable in an M.D. For sale at book-stores at fifty cents a copy.

NORTH AMERICAN AYRSHIRE REGISTER: wherein every animal is traced to importation. Vol. III. By E. Lewis and Jos. N. Sturtevant, South Framingham, Mass. In the preface of this volume is given a concise statement of what the Ayrshire cattle have done in the way of milk-yielding, which shows their claim upon the dairy farmer. The bulls recorded are carried to No. 737, and the cows to No. 1671. The volume is handsomely bound in cloth. Price \$1. Sent by mail by the editors on receipt of price.

THE NATIVE FLOWERS AND FERNS OF THE UNITED STATES. By Thomas Meehan. L. Prang & Co., Publishers.—We receive Parts III. to VIII., and must certainly pronounce them the cheapest publications of the day. Handsomely gotten up, each part contains four beautifully colored plates, and treating of our flowers botanically, horticulturally, and popularly, it is deserving the attention of every lover of beautiful flowers. It is sold by subscription at fifty cents a number.

A MANUAL OF GEORGIA for the use of Immigrants and Capitalists. Prepared under the direction of Thomas P. Jones, A.M., M.D., Commissioner of Agriculture, Atlanta, Georgia, 1878. pp. 117.—A useful compilation, and deserving of credit as being free from exaggeration, and presenting facts which speak for themselves.

THE GARDEN OF THE WEST. How and Where to Earn a Living.—A pamphlet concerning the lands of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad Co., in south-western Kansas.

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF ORNAMENTAL TREES, SHRUBS, ROSES, FLOWERING PLANTS, ETC. Twenty-third edition. Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N.Y.

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF PLANTS. Ellwanger & Barry, Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N.Y. Thirty-first edition. No. 3, 1878.

PAMPHLET OF POT-GROWN AND OTHER STRAWBERRY PLANTS, for sale by A. Hance & Son, Red Bank, N. J.

DESCRIPTIVE PRICE LIST OF STRAWBERRIES. Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N.Y.

THE HAKES PATENT SWIVEL PLOW IMPROVED. H. B. Hakes, Worcester, Mass.

A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF ROSES. Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N.Y.

NEW SEEDLING GRAPE, THE AMBER QUEEN. N. B. White, Norwood, Mass.

PRICES. Fall, 1878. Pomona Nursery. William Parry, Cinnaminson, N.J.

In renewing your subscription, do not forget to ask your neighbor to allow you to send his subscription along with your own. We think he will thank you for it before his year is up.