Agriculture.

Harrowing Sowed Grain.

The *Country Gentleman*, in a recent issue, remarks:—The *American Agriculturist* furnishes in a late number some useful suggestions on harrowing fall and spring grain, which induce us to offer a few additional remarks on the subject, mostly the result of many years' experiment. The writer in the *Agriculturist* describes the process by which a field of oats was harrowed seven times with a common harrow, with manifest advantage. The ground was a light and sandy alluvium, plowed the previous autumn. A part of the field was top-dressed with compost before sowing the oats, and the remainder immediately afterwards. The last mentioned top-dressing seemed to answer best, as it served as a mulch at the time the outs were coming up, and was better pulverized and mixed with the soil. The common heavy harrow being used, its first passing tore out some plants of the oats and buried others; but care being taken to run the teeth in the same tracks every time, less disturbance occurred subsequently. The teeth cut furrows, and ranged the plants somewhat as if sowed with a drill. The weeds were killed wholesale. The crop was sowed about the middle of April, and the harrowing took place at irregular intervals between May 2 and June 12th. The weeds were well cleared out by these several operations, and the last one buried and destroyed a crop of purslane just making its appearance at the surface. The oats were then a foot high, and were much flattened down by the harrow.

We are not informed what the increase was in the amount of the crop consequent on the seven harrowings, as the oats had not been cut, and no estimate had been made. As all the field appears to have been treated alike, there was probably no means of learning the amount of increase effected.

Loosening the surface or breaking the crust, as most farmers are aware, generally contributes to a strong increase in growth. The old practice of cultivating corn and hoeing the plants by hand, has always proved an advantage, even where there were no weeds to destroy. Greater benefit is derived from frequent horse culture. Farmers who have passed the cultivator between the rows once a week, from the time the corn was a few inches high till so large as to brush the passing horse's back, have estimated the increase of their crops from this treatment from twelve to twenty bushels per acre. This principle applies alike to other plants, and the European practice of cultivating the drills of wheat has proved its advantage. But the labor of working in drills is much greater than cultivating broadcast. Hence the advantage of sweeping with a harrow over the whole surface. A common heavy harrow does not work so well as one much lighter and with more numerous teeth. Its action would be still more unfavorable on other soil than alluvium. Our own experiments have been made with different implements, and among others with the smoothing harrow. It has the advantage over the common heavy harrow, in not requiring the care, mentioned by the writer we have referred to, necessary in running the teeth in the previous furrows made by the teeth. Indeed, it is better not to run in the same tracks, but to sweep broadcast and crosswise, leaving a smooth, even surface. This treatment kills the young weeds that are just coming up, and the teeth pass among the plants without injury to them. It thus accomplishes much more at one harrowing than the heavy harrow, and seven passings are not necessary. In one case we ran the harrow twice when the young oats were about four and seven inches high, sowing clover seed the last time. To prevent injury to the growth of the clover, about one-half the usual amount of oats was sown as seed. One-half the field was treated in this way, and the other half was not harrowed at all after sowing. The crop should have been measured, to give the difference accurately, but it was not. A neighboring farmer, however, estimated after careful examination of the oats while standing, that the harrowing increased the crop as three is to two, the best portion being over sixty bushels per acre. The clover on this part was better than the other. Other experiments have given a similar but less striking result.

Applying Paris Green.

A farmer writes:—I will give the method I have practised eight years, and consider the best. I would mix not less than one hundred pounds of plaster with each pound of Paris green. I have used more than double that amount with good effect. Of course it must be thoroughly mixed, and you will think there is not much show of green; but on comparing with fresh plaster, you will discover quite a tinge of color.

The apparatus I use consists of a square yard of mosquito netting. I spread it on a board, and put about a quart of the mixture in the centre, gather up the four corners, and I am ready for business. I can carry it all over the farm without losing a particle, so long as it is not shaken. The least little jerk will throw out a cloud, which, with a little practice, can be placed just where I want it. With a bag carried in each hand, I can take two rows at once; but a better way is to dust one row till the bag is empty, and use the other on the return trip. The netting should be new, as the threads are more even. I do not count the cost of plaster, as it used to be considered a good investment to apply it freely to potatoes, before the irruption of the Colorado beetle. I had read so much in favor of the sprinkling method that I gave it a trial last summer; but one trial was enough. One advantage in using plaster is that it shows where I have been. After a rain it is not necessary to go over them till all traces of plaster are washed off.

Another finds the following method the most effectual, rapid and sure: I take a pork barrel, put it on a narrow stone-boat, drive to the cistern, and, first putting in three-quarters of a pound of Paris green, I fill it up with water, throw an old blanket over and go to the field. I drive between the rows, and, using a pail and brush-broom, I sprinkle on each side of the boat about thirty rows, keeping the horse and boat ahead of me all the time. I use a paddle to stir up the water before dipping out. A small broom made for children I find the best, sawing off the handle so as to leave almost a foot long. With this I can keep the water well stirred up in the pail, and throw the water in the desired place. This, after a trial, I find is the best and cheapest way.

About Cellars.

The *Germantown Telegraph* says:—We have more than once referred to the great importance in having cellars properly constructed. The truth is these indispensable conveniences are entirely too much neglected. They seldom have sufficient ventilation, their bottoms or floors are uneven, frequently have water standing in them, and often are allowed to be in a filthy or untidy condition. A contemporary says: "The best way to secure ventilation is to have a communication between the cellar and the chimney, by means of a pipe or other opening." Windows on two sides of a cellar afford an excellent ventilation. We don't agree, however, with it that cellars should have mortar bottoms. They will not exclude the rats as it supposes. These pests are sure to get almost anywhere if they are intent upon it. A perfectly smooth hard earth bottom can be kept as cleanly and will look as well as any other, and is in many respects better than cement. There is but little dampness arises from what is known as a dry cellar, and not enough to affect the rest of the premises. Adds our contemporary, "Generally a cellar should be darkened in the winter. The usual way is to bank up the windows with tan bark, dirt or straw. A good wall ought to be made so that the cellar needs no banking. The windows should be double and, to keep out the light, have shutters on the inside which can be removed at pleasure. In this way you can regulate the light as you desire." This is very well, but a cellar needs ventilation in winter as much almost as in summer, and the way to secure it is to let the outside door open daily from 12 to 1 or 2 o'clock when the weather is not too severe to admit of it.

Drainage should be secured by all means. When possible a drain should lead out to a spot where the ground is sufficiently low for the purpose. Otherwise, should the bottom of a cellar not be of a sandy or porous nature, a narrow well or sink should be dug down until sand is struck. There are few wells where sand or rock or a porous soil cannot be reached if it does not exist in cellars.

Domestic.

POISONING BY BURNING GAS.—To have our rooms pleasantly illuminated with gas is to undergo a process of poisoning, the more disastrous because, instead of directly producing the characteristic symptoms of defective blood oxygenation, the gas-polluted atmosphere insidiously lowers the tone of vitality, and establishes a condition favorable to disease. It would be difficult to overrate the importance of this household peril. Pictures are spoiled by gas, gilt mouldings are tarnished, the colors of decorated walls and ceilings fade, and men and women of delicate organization are enfeebled and injured by the foul air in which gas is discharged and supposed to burn innocuously. The extent to which this evil works in the midst of domestic families during the long evenings is not adequately appreciated. After the first few unpleasant experiences are over, the physical insensibility becomes inured to the immediate results of breathing an atmosphere charged, more or less heavily, with the products of combustion and unconsumed coal gas. It is not creditable to the ingenuity of practical men that no method has yet been devised by which the advantages of gas as an illuminating agent may be secured without the drawback of slow poisoning, with the host of maladies a depressed vitality is sure to bring in its train.

BOUDOIR CURTAINS.—A pretty pair of boudoir curtains, a lady writes, were of ordinary fine muslin, on which were picturesquely grouped flowers, birds and Watteau shepherds and shepherdesses cut from cretonne; these were en applique, and more or less worked up in colored filoselles. The result of such work cannot fail to be graceful if the arrangement of the cretonne scraps is carefully carried out in an unstudied manner. One pair of curtains had a charming arrangement of peacocks, Oriental foliage and brilliantly-hued butterflies, the lighter shades of all worked up in silks; another pair had Watteau groups and birds, with graceful ferns. This work should not be elaborately worked; a very few stitches of silk, carefully disposed, give a great effect, and the work has always the charm of novelty.

NATURE'S REMEDY.—People who, without knowing that they were applying nature's remedy, have drawn in their breath hard when they had cut a finger or barked a shin on a coal scuttle, will be pleased to learn that they have employed respiratory analgesia in its simplest form. If any man will draw breath deeply and quickly for the space of three minutes or less he will thereby lose acute sensibility to pain, so that he can endure minor surgical operation without inconvenience. Eminent surgeons have found the process of great advantage when used alone, not only, but when anæsthetics also were employed, in which latter case the quantity of the drug to be used is greatly diminished.

A HEALTHFUL PRACTICE.—Loosen the clothing, and, standing erect, throw the shoulders well back, then hands behind, and the breast forward. In this position draw slowly as deep an inspiration as possible, and retain it by an increased effort for a few seconds, then breathe it gradually forth. After a few natural breaths, repeat the long inspiration. Let this be done for ten or fifteen minutes every day, and in six weeks' time a very perceptible increase in the diameter of the chest and its prominence will be evident.

RUSTIC TABLES.—Pretty rustic tables, for afternoon tea, made of basket work, with four or five branches, for bread and butter, cake, etc., look well on a lawn, and are most convenient for the dispenser of the five o'clock meal. The tea-table cloths for lawntennis parties are frequently embroidered with the implements of the game. The balls and crossed rackets in the corners, and the net and poles round the sides, make an effective design.

Household Receipts.

PULLED BREAD.—Take from the oven an ordinary loaf of bread when it is about half baked, and with the fingers, while it is yet hot, pull it apart in egg-sized pieces of irregular shape; throw them upon tins, and bake them in a slow oven to a rich brown color. This bread is excellent to eat with cheese or wine. An ordinary-sized loaf, costing about three cents, makes a large panful.

BATTER BREAD.—Soak half a cup of bread crumbs in a pint of milk, add two cups of Indian meal, one tablespoonful of lard or butter, a teaspoonful of salt, two eggs beaten very light; add eggs last and then beat the whole together thoroughly, and bake in shallow tins quickly. Some bread crumbs and some corn meal absorb more moisture than others. If this quantity of milk does not make it thin enough for a light, smooth batter, when well beaten add a little more milk. This is a good way to use up all bits of bread.

SWEET OMELETS.—Break six eggs in a basin, add to them three teaspoonfuls of sugar, and beat them up sufficiently to have the whites and yolks well mixed; then add to this three tablespoonfuls of cream, stirring it until it is mixed thoroughly. Cook the same as another omelette, and, just before turning out on your dish, put a spoonful of strawberry jam, currant jelly, or any kind of preserve you prefer, over it. Turn it out in your dish, sift powdered sugar over it, and hold a salamander over it a few minutes. A shovelful of hot coals will answer in place of a salamander.

BOILING FRESH FISH.—All fresh fish or fresh meats must be put into boiling water; salt fish or salt meats into cold water. Before putting in the fish throw in about two tablespoonfuls of salt for a large fish, a little heaped, and a wineglass of vinegar. This secures the best flavor of fish, and the vinegar does not affect the taste at all. The water must be boiling when the fish is laid in, but after that it must only simmer. Never boil fish. It is done when it begins to crack or cleave apart from under the gills, if a whole fish; if only a part of a fish it will, when done, spring off a little from the backbone. Don't let it cook a minute longer after that.

BOILED DUCK.—Dress and rub the inside well with salt and pepper, truss and tie in shape, drawing the legs in to the body, in which place two sage leaves, a little finely-chopped onion, and a little jellied stock or gravy; rub over with salt and pepper: make a paste in the proportion of half a pound of butter to one pound of flour, in which inclose the duck, tie a cloth around all and boil two hours or until quite tender, keeping it well covered with boiling water. Serve by pouring round it a brown gravy, made as follows: Put a lump of butter the size of an egg in a saucepan with a little minced onion; cook until slightly brown, then adding a small tablespoonful of flour, stir well, and when quite brown add a half pint of stock or water; after cooking a few minutes, strain the gravy, and add the giblets, previously chopped and stewed till tender.

Scientific.

Physical Action of the Microphone.—At the Physical Society, London, Mr. Chandler Roberts read a paper for Professor Hughes on the physical action of the microphone. The pith of the communication is contained in the following sentences: The problem which the microphone resolved is this: The instrument introduces into an electric circuit an electrical resistance, which resistance shall vary in exact accord with sonorous vibrations; thus producing an undulatory current of electricity from a constant source, whose wave length, height and form shall be an exact representation of the sonorous waves. In the microphone they had an electric conducting material susceptible of being influenced by sonorous vibrations, and here they had the first part of the problem. The second step was one of the highest importance, for it was necessary that the electrical current flowing at this point should be thrown into waves of determinate forms by the sole action of the sonorous vibrations. This was resolved by the discovery that when an electric conducting matter was in a divided state, either in the form of powder, filings or surfaces, and put under a pressure—far less than that which would produce cohesion, and more than would allow it to be separated by sonorous vibrations—the molecules in presence at the surface being in a comparatively free state, although electrically joined, did of themselves so arrange their forms, their number in contact or their pressure, by increased size or orbit of revolution, that the electrical resistance of the circuit was increased and decreased in a remarkable degree. The problem being resolved, it was only necessary to observe general considerations to produce an endless variety of telephones, each having a special range of resistance. A man's voice required four surfaces of pine charcoal, introduced into the circuit, or six of willow charcoal, or eight of boxwood, or ten of gas charcoal. The great desideratum now is an insulator of the sound.

Oyster Culture in China.—Like so many other peculiar things in the Celestial Empire, the Chinese system of oyster culture differs widely from that of Europe or America. In the southern parts of China "collectors" of bamboo are placed in the oyster beds, much after the same fashion as the elaborate tiles and "hives" employed in France. These bamboo oyster catchers, however, are prepared in a curious manner. The canes are exposed for about two months to the rays of the sun, and then placed for the same period in salt water, after which they are again dried for several days. Notches are then cut in the cans, into which empty oyster shells are fixed, and thus prepared they are driven into the seashore between high and low water mark, and left standing to catch the young oyster spat. Those localities are considered the best where the rise and fall of the tide is the greatest, so that the bivalves may be alternately covered by the flood and exposed to the air on ebb tide. A large trade is carried on by these collectors, and successful oyster culturists are known to have amassed considerable fortunes. The young oysters seem to develop very rapidly, and are ready for the market when two years old. Large quantities of oysters are dried instead of being eaten in a fresh state. For this purpose they are taken from the shells, simply plunged into boiling water and removed at once, after which they are exposed to the rays of the sun till every particle of moisture has evaporated. They will keep for a considerable length of time in this state. The finest and fattest oysters, bred and fattened on the bamboo "culch," are selected for preparation after this method, those taken from the natural bed being inferior in quality, and not sufficiently fat to endure the operation.

Curious Astronomical Phenomenon.—*The Pittsburg Chronicle* records a singular phenomenon connected with the planet Jupiter, as seen by Messrs. Gemill and Wampler, of McKeesport, Penn., with a five-inch telescope. At 10:05 P.M., these observers noticed on the eastern margin of the disc of Jupiter a dark round spot, just above the northern belt. It soon moved rapidly westward, just touching the belt and parallel with Jupiter's equator, and passed off the face of the planet at 1:24 A. M., of the 12th. Its appearance while passing across the disc of Jupiter was that of a perfect sphere or globe much larger than any of Jupiter's satellites. It appeared to stand out in space between the planet and the observer, was well and sharply defined, and most intensely black. It reflected no light, and was not seen either before or after its passage across the planet. It could not have been a spot on the globe of Jupiter, for it passed over its disc from first internal contact to last eternal contact of margins in three hours and nineteen minutes. It was not a satellite nor the shadow of one, because all the four satellites were in full view the whole time. It will be interesting to know whether other observers witnessed this curious transit.

Humorous.

—Ode to a Money-Lender—"Meet me a loan."

—When is a cat like a tea-pot?—When you're teasin' it (tea's in it).

—Do not mistake a peanut roaster for a phonograph.—*New Jersey Republican.*

—Every loafer thinks he is entitled, at least, to a loaf-'er bread.—*Commercial Advertiser.*

—Lightning might do more sometimes if it wasn't in such an awful hurry.—*Bridgeport Standard.*

—"I find your recommendation very good, Bridget." "Yes, ma'am, and now I'll see yours, ma'am, if you plaze."

—A tack points heavenward when it means the most mischief. It has many human imitators.—*Cincinnati Breakfast table.*

—Senior is questioned: "What is the name of that lady to whom you are engaged?" Senior blandly responds: "Which one?"

—A Connecticut woman was appointed constable the other day, and the first thing she said was: "Now I *shall* catch a man."

—Life is full of curious things. What makes some men wear a duster fourteen inches shorter than their undercoat?—*Bridgeport Standard.*

—An Oil City church paid off its indebtedness last winter with half a can of oysters and a barrel of water. The stews were economical and yielding.

—"The single scull race!" exclaimed an old lady, as she laid down the morning paper; "My! I didn't know there was a race of men with double skulls."

—There hasn't been a tramp sunstruck in the United States for more than 600 years. There is something for people who work for a living to think about.—*Hawkeye.*

—A cobbler's shop cannot be said to be thoroughly established, until it has, among its belongings, a broken nosed water pitcher, and a three legged stool for visitors.—*Fulton Times.*

—Some men are like cats. You may stroke the fur the right way for years and hear nothing but purring; but accidentally tread on the tail, and all memory of former kindness is obliterated.

—Cham depicts a Parisian welcoming a country relative with: "How good it is of you to come! for you are just in time to assist me in nursing a friend from Rio Janeiro, who has the yellow fever."

—"Pray, Mr. Professor, what is a periphrasis?" "Madame, it is simply a circumlocutory cycle of oratorical sonorosity circumscribing an atom of ideality, lost in verbal profundity." "Thank you, sir."

—Deacon Pilkins said to himself, "Falstaff asks, 'What's honor?' As though it was hard to tell. But let my wife sit behind another woman in church, and she'll tell what's on her in less than two minutes."

—"What fine dark hair you have got, Miss M——! My wife, who is much younger than you, has her hair quite gray." "Indeed," rejoined Miss M——, "if I had been your wife, my hair no doubt had been gray too."

—We had hoped to make an elaborate article on the evils of Mormonism, and here it is announced that each of Brigham Young's heirs gets $21,000. Nobody can preach in the face of such circumstances as that.—*Buffalo Express.*

—"What are those speckled birds?" inquired Mrs. Skinflint of a poulterer. "Guinea-fowls, ma'am." "Keep 'em, then," murmured the lady, as she walked away, disgusted at such imposition; "you don't get my guineas for 'em, that's all."

—The time for a man to stand firmly by Job's example is when he washes his face with home-made soap and begins to paw around over the chairs with his eyes shut, and inquiring for a towel, and is told that the towel is in the drawer, but the keys are lost.—*Glasgow (Ky.) Times.*

—"See here, captain," said a sharp boy, who was seeking employment from an old sea-faring man, "first father died, and my mother married again; and then my mother died, and my father married again; and somehow or other, someway, I don't seem to have no parents at all, nor no home, nor no nothing."

—It would be unkind to the editors who have gone on the excursion East to say that their papers have improved during their absence, and it would be unkind to the substitutes they have left behind them to say that they are not as well edited as usual. Hence it is wise to say nothing about it. That is why we do not refer to the matter.—*Springfield (O.) Republic.*

—"Sam," said a young mother to her darling boy, "do you know what the difference is between the body and the soul? The soul, my child, is what you love with; the body carries you about. This is your body (touching the boy's shoulders and arms), but there is something deeper in. You can feel it now. What is it?" "Oh, I know," said he, with a flash of intelligence in his eye, "that is my flannel shirt."

—A lady occupying room letter B at a hotel, wrote on the slate as follows: "Wake letter B at seven; and if letter B says 'Let her be,' don't let her be, nor letter B be, because if you let letter B be, letter B will be unable to let her house to Mr. B——, who is to call at half past ten." The porter, a better book-black than orthographist, after studying the above all night, did not know whether to wake letter B or to "let her be."

HOME CONTRIVANCES.

A FEW PRACTICAL HINTS—HOW TO UTILIZE APPARENTLY USELESS ARTICLES.

A writer in *Harpers' Bazar* says:

No one who has not tried can form any idea of how many useful "contrivances" there are in the world; of how many apparent impossibilities may be conquered by the practical application of a little of the floating ingenuity to be found in every family.

When the drawing-room furniture becomes actually shabby, instead of packing off the chairs and couches to the furniture shop to be re-covered, or exchanging them at a great sacrifice for new ones—which will necessitate new carpet, rug, and curtains, or at least make the old ones look very guilty and downcast—they should be tastefully and carefully covered at home; they will look just as pretty as if they had been sent to the upholsterer, frequently prettier, without putting their surroundings to the blush. Even when their shape is old-fashioned, a little contrivance does wonders; the shabbiest and most ungainly couch can be made to look not only passably but positively pretty by a well-made cover of some soft, self-colored washing material with a floral border, or a delicate patterned chintz or cretonne; a cover contrived to conceal defects, tone down angularities, supply deficiencies, and present a graceful outline to the eye. If the back is stiff and awkward, try what a few soft square cushions carelessly placed will do. If the ends are straight and prim, pad them well with cheap wadding, see that the covers do not drag, and avoid attracting attention to them by ornamenting them with showy antimacassars. The fragments of lace and satin, so fashionable and popular, and we may say plentiful, in the modern drawing-room, look well on handsome chairs, which they are meant to ornament, not protect from either dust or friction, but a pretty anti-macassar on a shabby chair or lounge only makes the shabbiness more painfully apparent.

Is there a vacant or bare-looking corner in your back drawing-room or breakfast room? Think what a nice ottoman can be easily contrived to fill it up—one of those empty, square trunks in the box room, a few yards of gray wadding, which costs a few cents a yard, and a few yards of chintz or cretonne. Have a small, neat pattern with a clear ground. Contrive your cover to fit well—that is the main point; don't let it be too short, or too long, or too wide, or too narrow, nor have one side full and the other scrimpy. Above all, have the corners exact, and get the sides to hang evenly and gracefully; place it corner-wise; place all furniture—couches, easy-chairs, tables—at some angle (a correct one to the eye, if you can), and the result will be surprising. We have seen pretty, tasteful modern furniture look stiff and old-fashioned from being arranged in lines, and a well-worn old suite look effective and charming from artistic arrangement and a few cleverly contrived aids in the way of cushions, covers, and padding.

Having transformed an unsightly box into a pretty and useful article of furniture, we may, in houses where such contrivances are not needed or permitted in the drawing-room, with great advantage transfer it to the bed-room, where a pretty seat in a window or by the fire is not only a great comfort, but a box in the disguise of an ottoman relieves over-crowded drawers and wardrobes, so adding to comfort and orderliness; and here we may say that without orderliness there can be no real comfort; without comfort, hardly can we hope to maintain perfect health; and without health there is no happiness.

All covers should be made to wash and come off easily, therefore tacks should be religiously avoided; the cushion, which must be made separately, ought to come over the edge of the box a little, and be firmly tied on with tape; the covers, if you can contrive to make them fit properly, require no fastening. Not only may empty boxes be utilized, but dressing tables too shabby for respectability, too old-fashioned for pleasant contemplation—for the eye delights in novelty—useless to the furniture dealer, yet too good to be broken up for firewood, can, by the judicious use of colored roll muslin, and old lace or leno window curtains, or even worn-out grenadine evening dresses, be transformed into tasteful, graceful toilette tables. We have seen a pretty and most convenient dressing table contrived, on a pinch, from two villanous-looking deal packing cases placed on their ends, and the discarded leaf of a table placed on top; each box was covered all round with pink glazed calico, tacked on tightly, and that draped with the best portions of a pair of old lace hangings that had lain in a drawer for years discarded as utterly useless. There was a frill about eight inches deep tacked to the table leaf, and the whole finished by a white dimity toilette cover trimmed with fringe. The contrivance was not only pretty to look at, but it was a most comfortable table to sit at, the space between the packing cases being most convenient for the feet.

Book shelves for the bed-room may be easily contrived from the boards of old boxes, which in some mysterious way accumulate about a house. Three pieces should be selected, of three sizes; carefully paper them, and when thoroughly dry, have a hole bored in each corner about half an inch from the edge; get a few yards of green or red window-cord, pass it through the holes of the longest shelf, then place four firm knotson the four ends at equal distances, then draw the ends through the holes of the second-sized shelf, and so with the third; then fasten all four ends firmly together, leaving the two front ones a little longer than those meant to be next the wall. When the shelves are firmly and evenly hung up, get a few yards of ornamental leather, and tack it round the ends and front of the shelves. It hides the edges of the board and the knots on the cord, and, most important of all, keeps the dust from the books.

Calling on an acquaintance not very long ago, I observed a hearth rug of a very original design in the breakfast room; it was entirely composed of shreds of cloth, blue, black, scarlet and gray, about three inches in length and half an inch wide, arranged in a systematic and pretty pattern, the gray forming the walls of Troy as a border on a black ground, the centre an intricate design of stars and squares, the whole stitched firmly and neatly on a piece of coarse canvas. It was large, comfortable, pretty-looking, and would doubtless last a long time, and, I was informed, had been made by the servant during the lesisure hours of two winters.

"But where," I asked, "did she get all the pieces of cloth?"

"Collected them patiently and carefully," was the reply; saved scraps left from the children's clothes. I fancy she must have been a particular friend of a tailor, for she has manufactured a sort of winter rug for her bed entirely from cloth selvedges, and one for mine, very pretty and beautifully warm, from fragments of scarlet flannel, collected with patience, and put together with a great deal of ingenuity."

Apropos of rugs, I would give a hint for the making of one, which I tried and found to answer very well. Get a dozen yards of wadding and eight of cretonne, four of one pattern and four of another, cut each piece into two widths and join them together, then arrange the wadding between, and bind the edges neatly with colored braid; a narrow fringe all round is an improvement. Sew a few dozen cheap shirt buttons on it at regular intervals, to keep the wadding in its place, and you have a warm, useful, pretty rug, equally serviceable for the couch or the bed, at a very small outlay. Of course it comes cheaper still if you have any old curtains, dressing gowns, or any other soft materials that can be used instead of cretonne.

One pretty addition to the bed or dressing-room which, though not exactly a contrivance, may be worth mentioning and describing—this is a shoe bag. A yard of holland will make one to hold four pairs of boots or shoes. The holland should be folded into three parts—two of equal size, the third smaller—and shaped to fold over like the adhesive part of an envelope. The two equal parts should be stitched together, then divided lengthwise into eight compartments—each large enough to hold a boot or shoe—by rows of feathers stitch, herring bone, or rows of narrow braid neatly put on. The whole bag, flap and all, should be bound with braid or finished off with fringe, or it might be made of pique or dimity, to match the toilette mats, and trimmed accordingly. Two tapes should be fastened at the back to tie it to the foot of the bedstead, or to hooks put up in any convenient place. The envelope-shaped flap may be either tied, hooked or buttoned over, and then the boots and shoes are out of the way in a careful, orderly manner, secured alike from dust and damage.

Windows, especially in large towns, are a continual tax on the patience and pocket of a housekeeper. It is needless to say how soon clean muslin or leno short curtains become grimy, or how bad they look then, and how troublesome it is to put them up quite straight and keep them so. On back windows a useful substitute for short curtains is tissue paper, white or pale yellow looks best, cut into pretty patterns, and pasted neatly on the panes with sweet oil or the white of an egg. It gives plenty of light.

Seeing a lady fringing the ends of a pink bow one day, I asked her why she did not save the ravellings.

"What for?" she asked, "what earthly use are they?"

"If you save a great many," I replied, "of different colors, and mix them *softly* together, they make a pretty sort of filling for the grate."

And sure enough, some months after, when I visited her, I found a soft, fluffy, flossy ball of all the covers of the rainbow in the drawing-room stove, and very pretty and original it looked. Indeed, silk ravellings are useful and well worth saving for many reasons; they stuff cushions very well, and where there is a baby they do beautifully to wad a coverette for the cradle, being light, soft and warm.

These are but a few of the contrivances, useful as well as ornamental, that are to a certain extent within everybody's reach. Clever contrivances cover at least a third of the expenses of a prudent housekeeper. She brings them to bear on everything, from reversing the dining-room curtains when they begin to look faded, or placing a table over the weakest spot of the drawing-room carpet, to ingeniously concocting two new window curtains out of three old ones, or making the two best ends of a counterpane meet without exciting observation.

GREAT GUNS.

THE LATEST AND BIGGEST MONSTER TURNED OUT BY KRUPP.

A series of trials will be begun towards the end of the present month on the artillery range at Zossen with a monster piece of ordnance, the construction of which has just been completed in Krupp's well-known gun factory, and which, it is stated, is to form the armament of one of the new armored gun vessels of the German navy. The gun has, according to a description of it given in a German military paper, a calibre of 35½ centimetres, or 13 6 inches, its bore being, therefore, nearly two inches larger than that of the 38-ton guns with which the Thunderer is armed; while the length of the piece is 10 metres, or nearly 33 feet, the gun being, therefore, longer than the 80-ton guns which are to form the armament of the Inflexible. The projectile fired by it weighs 11 centners, or rather more than 1,200 pounds; the charge consists of 120 kilogrammes, or 264 pounds of powder; the bursting charge of the shell of 30 pounds of powder; and it is expected that the extreme range of the gun will not be far short of two German or over nine English miles. Altogether, therefore, the new gun is a far more powerful weapon than the 30 5 centimetre, the heaviest piece of ordnance hitherto existing in the German navy; the weight of the projectile thrown by this latter being 740 pounds, and charge 158 pounds. Renewed experiments are also about to be undertaken with the Krupp armored gun, several important modifications having been introduced into its construction since the trials which were made with it last year at Bredelar, alterations which will, it is confidently anticipated, be found to have effectually remedied the weak points in the design which prevented the first experiments from being entirely successful.

WHAT WE NEED.

We need able and educated men in agriculture and manufacture, and there is not a department under those titles that may not be elevated, not alone in name, but in its permanent value as a factor in its well being by such recruits as our colleges might furnish.

Students fresh from the university are too apt to forget that there is something practical in life to which their education is only an introduction, and that if it helps them in law, in medicine, and in theology, it will also be an aid to them in those other pursuits which are equally associated with national progress and prosperity.

A few matter-of-fact sermons like Dr. Peabody delivered, just at the time when young men's minds and feelings are the most receptive might lead them to indulge less in thoughts of being carried through life on beds of flowery ease, and more of following avocations which will in the end yield not only pleasure, but profit.

—A fashionably-attired young lady—one done up in the height of the style—looks as though she were encased in an umbrella sheath.

—"Yes," said a man, as he bent his elbow to raise the twentieth glass, "it is overwork that kills."

REGISTER'S LINIMENT is unequalled for man or animals.—See advertisement in another column.

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Rev. W. L. Bostwick, D. D., 166 Clark Street, Hartford, writes: "I feel that your VITALIZED PHOSPHATES are curing my nervous prostration. In particular, I notice that they tend to keep the liver active by promoting a better digestion. My head does not ache, and feel so irritable as it did. My nervous system is stronger and in better regulation. My brain is much more active, mentally and physically. I can work better."

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