

full of sublimity and beauty. Winter with us hath none of its proverbial gloom. It may have its howling winds and chilling frosts, and whirling snow storms, but it has also its long intervals of cloudless sunshine when the snow-clad earth gives redoubled brightness to the day, when at night the stars beam with intense lustre, or the moon floods the whole landscape with her most limpid radiance.

And the joyous outbreak of our spring, bursting at once into leaf and blossom, redundant with vegetation, and vociferous with life; and the splendor of summer, its morning voluptuousness and evening glory, its airy places of sun-lit clouds piled up in a deep azure sky; and its gusts of tempest of almost tropical grandeur, when the forked lightning and bellowing voluptuous volleys from the battlements of heaven and shake the sultry atmosphere; and the sublime melancholy of our autumn, magnificent in its decay, withering down the pomp of the woodland country, yet reflecting back from its yellow forests the golden serenity of the sky. Truly we may well say that in our climate, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge."

HOW THE BEAN CLIMBS THE POLE.—Professor Brewer, of Washington College, Pa., communicates to the *American Journal of Science and Arts* the result of some experiments made by him on climbing vines—the hop, the Lima bean, and the morning glory. He finds that they will climb around a transparent glass pipe just as well as anything else, and that they are warmest in their embraces when the pole is warmer than the surrounding air. During the day, the vine is all attracted toward the light, but at night, especially on cool nights, it turns to the pole. He learned, also, that the color of the pole makes no difference; the caressing instinct of the vine has no prejudice against any shade. The element of constancy is very largely developed, the vine, after it has reached its pole, showing a much stronger tendency to wind around it than it did before to reach it.

SELECTION OF BREEDING HOGS.—What we western men consider the main point, is this:—We want a hog with a good constitution, and the hog with the best constitution is the one with the largest and most perfect lungs; for if they have large lungs they will be thick through the shoulders; and my word for it, if you get a hog with thick shoulders, you will have a hearty hog, and one that will fatten at any age. The hog should be thicker through the shoulders than through the hams.

On the contrary, a hog that is thicker through the hams than the shoulders has a poor constitution, and hardly ever fattens well, and should never be selected to breed from.

There are other points or qualities to be taken into consideration, viz., size and color; how-

ever, color is only a matter of fancy. I prefer a white hog. But the size required depends upon the uses that the pork is to be put to; for instance, if for family use, a hog that will weigh 200 lbs., at twelve or fifteen months old, is large enough. If for market, I would prefer a larger breed, viz., one that will net 300 to 350 pounds, at eighteen to twenty months old.—*Ohio Valley Farmer*.

FROGS.—Somebody who has watched the amphibious creatures, says in *Chambers' Journal* that male frogs make the most noise, being furnished for that purpose with a kind of bladder in the neck, or double action bag pipe; but the voices of the females are the hoarsest and most aggravating. When, however, intent on doing the agreeable, they have another tone of voice—soft, sweet, and plaintive, like a bell heard in the stillness of a summer evening; from which some naturalists have inferred that it is of the married couples, and old maids and bachelors whose voices are so harsh and grating, their courting and honey-moon tones being pitched in a different key. Although frogs have tailors' or milliners' bills, they follow the fashions in having a new suit every week, fortnight during the summer, and in casting the old skin as frequently. They are admired as food not only by Frenchmen and gourmets but by snakes, eels, pike, trout, aquatic birds, hawks, owls, moles, and weazles. Those most esteemed by epicures frequent deep, clear pools and are not easily caught by hand.

CURE FOR IN-GROWING NAILS.—It is stated by a correspondent of the *Medical and Surgical Journal*, that cauterization with hot tallow is an immediate cure for in-growing nails. He says,—“The patient on whom I first tried it was a young lady who had been unable to get on a shoe for several months, and decidedly the worst case I had ever seen. The disease had been of long standing. The edge of the nail was deeply undermined; the granulations formed a high ridge, partly covered with skin, and pus constantly oozing from the root of the nail. The whole toe was swollen, and extremely tender and painful. My mode of proceeding was that I put a very small piece of tallow in a spoon, heated it over a lamp until it became very hot, and dropped two or three drops between the nail and granulations. The effect was magical. Pain and tenderness were at once relieved, and in a few days the granulations were all gone, diseased parts dry and destitute of feeling, the edge of the nail exposed so as to admit of being pared away without inconvenience. The cure was complete, and the trouble never returned. I have tried this plan repeatedly since, with the same satisfactory results. The operation causes little if any pain, if the tallow is properly heated.”