

**DOMESTIC LIFE IN THE MIDDLE AGES.**—Rude were the manners then; man and wife ate off the same trencher; a few wooden handled knives, with blades of rugged iron, were a luxury for the great; candles unknown. A servant girl held a torch at supper; one, or at most two, mugs of coarse brown earthenware formed all the drinking apparatus in a house. Rich gentlemen wore clothes of unlined leather—Ordinary persons scarcely ever touched flesh meat. Noble mansions drunk little or no wine in summer—a little corn seemed wealth. Women had trivial marriage portions—even ladies dressed extremely plain. The chief part of a family's expense was what the males spent in arms and horses, none of which however, were either very good or very showy; and grandees had to lay out money on their lofty towers.—In Dante's comparatively polished times, ladies began to paint their cheeks by way of finery, going to the theatre—and to use less assiduity in spinning and plying their distaff. What is only a symptom of prosperity in large, is the sure sign of ruin in small states. So in Florence he might very well deplore what in London and Paris would be to praise or cause a smile. Wretchedly, indeed, plebeians hovelled; and if noble castles were cold, dark, and dreary every where, they were infinitely worse in Italy from the horrible modes of tortures, and characteristic cruelty, too frightful to dwell on. Few of the infamous structures built at the times treated of stand at present; yet their ruins disclose rueful corners.—*History of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.*

It is with books as it is with women, where a certain plainness of manner and dressing is more engaging than that glare of paint and airs and apparel, which may dazzle the eye, but reaches not the affections.—*Hume.*

Alumina, or clay, makes a soil tough, tenacious, and impervious to water. Strictly speaking, clay is a silicate of alumina, though in common parlance we use them as synonymous. It rarely enters into the composition of vegetables, it being rather a base for the soil than a constituent for vegetation.

**MANGOLD WURZELS**—Taking into account the liability of turnips and bagas to disease and to the attacks of insects, and the comparative freedom of the mangolds from both, it has been strongly recommended in England to substitute the latter for the former, wherever the soil and situation are favorable. The mangolds are decidedly preferable as food for milch cows.

**TURKEYS**—*Benefit of a Cross with the Wild Stock.*—Mr. N. Call, of Allentown, N. H., informs us that he has kept in his flock of turkies a wild male, and the result is that the young ones from him are from four to five pounds heavier at five months old, than his turkies formerly were, though kept precisely in the same way. Mr. C. could spare some of the half wild ones.—*Boston Cultivator.*

**RUSTY OAT STRAW.**—Rusty oat straw proves bad feed for horses. Several have died from eating it.

**KNOWLEDGE.**—I envy no man that knows more than myself, but pity them that know less.—*Sir T. Browne.*

**FORETHOUGHT.**—If a man faints away, says Hull's *Journal of Health*, instead of yelling out like a savage, or running to him to lift him up, lay him at full length on his back on the floor, loosen the clothing, push the crowd away so as to allow the air to reach him, and let him alone. Dashing water over a person in a simple fainting fit, is a barbarity. The philosophy of a fainting fit is, the heart fails to send a proper supply of blood to the brain; if the person is erected that blood has to be thrown up hill; but if lying down it has to be projected horizontally, which requires less power, as is apparent at once to every thinking mind.

If a person swallows poison deliberately or by chance, instead of breaking out into multitudinous and incoherent exclamations, dispatch some one for the doctor; meanwhile run to the kitchen, get half a glass of water in anything that is handy, put into it a teaspoonful of salt and as much ground mustard, stir it in an instant, catch a firm hold of the persons nose, the mouth will soon fly open, then down with the mixture, and in a second or two up will come the poison. This will answer better in a larger number of cases than any other. If by this time the physician has not arrived, make the patient swallow the white of an egg, followed by a cup of strong coffee, because these nullify a larger number of poisons than any other accessible articles as antidotes for any poison that remains in the stomach.