the experience of every one that the war against insects, as against weeds, is one in which one must personally engage if he would have success; and farther, we have the assurance of those who have tried it, that it is little more trouble than a weed-war would be to get a successful victory against them. People think that the climate is a fearful one, and look with envious eyes on foreign countries from which fruit flows so freely to our shores. But all who have had personal experience in these countries tell us that personal effort to keep off these animal pests is something enormous, and they laugh at us because we sit down and do nothing but cry over our hard fate.

Of course we can get some help from outside agencies, and of these birds are the best. But even these we have to assist in order to get the best results from their works. We remember once, when the cut-worm question was one of the most engrossing with the press generally, asking a farmer friend what he regarded as the best remedy; and we suspect that the great world of disputants would have been surprised at his answer—he encouraged the *blackbirds*, as the purple grakle is called in these parts. This, the white grub, and similar root devourers, he thought he kept completely down by encouraging them. His neighbors shot at them whenever they had a chance, and they flocked to his farm where they were protected, and they followed his plough and hoe harrow, to use his own words, like a flock of ducks, and thus kept them closely checked. When he found his corn or any of his hoed crop troubled in this way, he put the cultivator at once to work, and this gave the birds a chance. Whenever he found a piece of land encumbered with these pests, he put it purposely in hoed crops, and in this way he thought he never had much trouble.

These little hints may be of service at this season of the year, when we are entering on our fruit-gathering times. The war must be begun early, and with personal effort. The ways and means need not be specially referred to. Only let it be recognized that personal labor of some kind must be at the bottom of success, and how to do it will often suggest itself.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

The Canker Worm.

It has been discovered that the canker worm which has been spreading so rapidly throughout the North west for the last few years, destroying the foliage of apple trees, and making the orchards look as though fire had swept through them, can be exterminated, and that too with very little labor. The female canker worm rises out of the ground in the spring as soon as the frost is out, and crawls up the trunk of the tree (as she is wingless), and deposits her eggs under old bark or in rough places, which hatch in May or the fore part of June into small looping caterpillars, or so-called measuring worms, which soon spread over the trees, destroying the foliage. Many plans have been tried to prevent the worm from crawling up the tree, and with some success, but to "wipe them out" completely, so that there shall not be one of them left to tell the tale, is by the use of Paris green in water, applied with a large syringe—a tablespoonful of Paris green to a pailful of water. When the worms are all hatched as near as can be judged, give the trees a good wetting down, and if afterward it is discovered that they were not all killed put on more, but usually one wetting will answer. I know orchards that in 1872 were covered with this worm, the foliage and fruit crop completely destroyed. That were treated as above last year with perfect success—the worms were killed, and the orchards produced fine crops of apples. This liquid will not only destroy the canker worm, but the myriads of insects—too small to be seen by the naked eye—that are preying upon the foliage of trees. One party says that, after using it last year in his orchard, the foliage made such a luxuriant growth, and so dark a green, that it was almost black. It can be used just as safely in the flower garden, destroying the insects that infest the shrubbery, as in the orchard.

The canker worm has already made its appearance in some sections of the country, and therefore must be looked after at once. The above is a very simple remedy and very easily applied. I saw parties in southern Wisconsin two or three days since who told me they proposed to make up a barrel of the liquid, put it on a platform built on the top of a lumber waggon box, drive on the windward side of the trees, and shower them by means of a garden syringe.

I hope that this may meet the eye of tens of thousands of orchardists, and that they will act upon its suggestions at once.—*Cor. Prairie Farmer.*

Miscellaneous.

Building Houses.

Every man who contemplates building a dwelling for himself, will make it a home, an hospital, or a grave for his family, according to his plan. The driest houses are the healthiest, hence those built of wood are the best, they are more liable to complete destruction by fire, but not more complete than iron or granite. Brick houses are the least injured by fire, because they neither melt, scale, nor crumble. The damages to which they are liable may be prevented by two expedients. Lay placing a layer of slate or stone between layers of brick about a foot above the ground, the dampness from the earth is arrested, as brick soaks up water like a sponge.

The outer walls may be protected against the absorption of rain and fogs thus: dissolve three-quarters of a pound of mottled soap in one gallon of boiling water, and with a flat brush spread it over the outer surface of the brick wall, while hot, without allowing it to lather, in clear dry weather; next day dissolve a quarter of a pound of alum in two gallons of water, and paint it over the soap coating; the two combine and form a film of varnish which the rain cannot penetrate. There should be a space of about an inch between the brick and the plaster. The old fashioned comb roofs are best, as they shed water more rapidly, and give a garret, which protects the upper rooms from the heat of the summer sun. If possible, let the house stand east and west, the front facing the south, thus exposing three sides to the sun, and let the family room and all the habitually occupied chambers face the south, so as to have all the advantages of the warming, drying, and cheering influences of the sunshine. The house should be on an elevation, to allow the water to drain off in every direction. Plastered walls are cleaner than those papered, perhaps varnish is better than either, and is not so easily soiled, and is more easily dusted and cleaned from stains or grease spots.

Bare walls are dreary and barn-like. They can be ornamented with pictures and engravings and thus be made instructive, amusing and diverting to a very high degree. If frames are preferred, a very neat and cheap pattern can be made by getting a piece of pasteboard and a glass the size of the picture, which should be placed between the two, and a rim made to answer the purpose of a frame, as well as to keep all in place, by doubling over the edges a ribbon or strip of velvet. Ornamentation may go still further, and be made to afford quite as much pleasure to the eye as paintings, by simply placing a handful of heads of wheat in a vase of water. Each grain sends out bright green leaflets, and continues to replenish the fading ones for weeks together.

An exquisite transparency may be made by arranging pressed ferns, grasses, and autumn leaves on a pane of window glass, laying another pane of the same size over it, and binding the edges with ribbon, leaving the group imprisoned between. It is well to secure a narrow strip of paper under the ribbon. The binding should be gummed all around the edge of the first pane, and dried, before the leaves, ferns, &c. are arranged; then it can be neatly folded over the second pane without difficulty. To form the loop for hanging the transparency, paste a binding of galloon along the edge, leaving a two inch loop free in the centre, afterwards to be pulled through a little slit in the final binding. These transparencies may be hung before the window, or, if preferred, screened against a pane in the sash. In halls a beautiful effect is produced by placing them against the side lights of the hall door. Where the side lights are each only a single pane, it is well worth while to place a single transparency against each, filling up the entire space, thus affording ample scope for a free arrangement of ferns, grasses, and leaves, while the effect of the light passing through the rich autumnal colors is very fine. Leaves so arranged will preserve their beauty during the whole of the winter. Screens of this kind have lately been advertised in which the ferns, etc., prepared by a peculiar process, are guaranteed to retain their verdure for years.

The water-closets and drains of a dwelling are second in importance to no other consideration, for it is now found that typhoid and other low forms of fever are caused by what comes out of the bodies of other persons; in other words, are diseases of filth—of uncleanliness. A case of typhoid fever cannot originate in a clean house; it is impossible. If water-closets must be under the same roof with the dwelling, which need not be except in large towns, they should be located in the corner of the house, because then the windows can open directly out of doors, and thus keep them thoroughly ventilated, and in addition, the pipe can pass directly out through the wall in communication with the leader which conveys the water from the roof, thus washing everything away. An unwise practice is to have the water-closet so located that there is no window to it, and its contents pass down an iron pipe into the drain in the cellar; if this iron pipe is behind the plastering, so that if it should become defective at the joints or elsewhere it would not be detected, and filthy matters, solid, fluid and gaseous escape, they will send out insidious poisons, undermining the health and shortening the lives of the whole household—forever taking medicine and yet forever unwell, since the causes of the sickness remain in operation. It is not surprising that in so many cases there is a marvellous improvement in health by going into the country for even a few days. For similar reasons the waste of the house should be conveyed outside of it by the most direct route possible into the great drain of the street. The authorities of all our cities and large towns might profitably direct their attention to this subject, and compel an arrangement for sewerage of private dwellings which would accomplish the results above indicated.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

Household Hints.

A Wisconsin man says that the flames of burning kerosene can be extinguished by throwing on flour. It seems reasonable that any absorbent material not readily combustible might be effective for such a purpose.

If you have been pickling or handling acid fruit and have stained your hands, wash them in clear water, wipe them lightly, and while they are yet moist strike a match and shut your hands around it so as to catch the smoke, and the stain will disappear.

Wet the spots of iron rust on muslin or white dress goods thoroughly with lemon juice, then lay in the hot sun to dry. Repeat the same if the color is not removed by one application. When dry, rinse in clear cold water. Lemon juice cannot be used on colored goods, as it will take out printed colors as well as stains. It will remove all kinds of stains from white goods.

Dusting articles of steel after they have been thoroughly cleaned with unslacked lime will preserve them from rust. The coils of piano wires thus sprinkled will keep from rust many years. Table knives which are not in constant use ought to be put in a case in which sifted quicklime is placed, about eight inches deep. They should be plunged to the top of the blades, but the lime should not touch the handles.

To remove mildew make a very weak solution of chloride of lime in water—about a heaping teaspoonful to a quart of water—strain it carefully, and dip the spot or the garment into it, and if the mildew does not disappear immediately, lay it in the sun for a few minutes, or dip it again into the lime water. The work is effectually and speedily done, and the chloride of lime neither rots the cloth nor removes delicate colors, when sufficiently diluted, and the article rinsed afterward in clear water.

The white of an egg has proved, of late, the most efficacious remedy for burns. Seven or eight successive applications of this substance soothe pain, and effectually exclude the burn from the air. This simple remedy seems preferable to collodion or even cotton. Extraordinary stories are told of the healing properties of new oil, which is easily made from the yolks of hen's eggs. The eggs are first boiled hard, and the yolks are then removed, crushed, and then placed over a fire, where they are carefully stirred until the whole substance is just on the point of catching fire, when the yolk will yield nearly two teaspoonfuls of oil. It is in general use among the colonists of South Russia as a means of curing cuts, bruises and scratches.

At this season of the year it is important for all housekeepers to be on their guard against the insidious attempts of the various species of ants and the detestable cockroaches to invade the kitchen and pantries or store rooms. Sprigs of wintergreen will make the small red ants leave their cherished haunts. Borax powdered and put into the crevices where cockroaches abide will finally cause them to disappear, but we have found concentrated lye melted into a sort of paste and applied with a knife a more expeditious mode of destroying these noxious insects. Scalding alum water is also certain death to cockroaches.

THE bees do not deposit in the cells all the pollen they gather. Many of the pellets are taken from the gatherers as they return with laden thighs, and are consumed, to qualify the workers for secreting wax or preparing food for the older larvæ.