

Poisonous Wall-Paper.

Dr. Keldie, of the Michigan Agricultural College, showed us last summer, when visiting that institution, a large collection which he had made of specimens of wall-paper of different shades and patterns, colored with arsenic, which gives a remarkably delicate and agreeable shade, and hence the eagerness with which these colors are sought.

One of the cases of poisoning was that of a young daughter of a gentleman formerly a State Senator. The room in which she slept was covered with poisonous paper, the ground of which was stone color with bands of bright green.

The only sure way of detecting this poison is by chemical tests, although a practiced eye will often do so from the color. A bright grass green may always be suspected.

Cement for Walls and Cisterns.

With one pint of quicklime or good (new) cement, we use from one to two parts of coarse, sharp sand, to make a stiff paste. This for quality depends on the freshness of the lime or cement, which requires less sand in proportion to its strength.

Finely pulverized soft brick, mixed with about equal parts of wood ashes and a little water in a basin, is put on the surface of a cement-laid or grouted floor of a dwelling house, with a trowel, and worked up to a finish that much resembles a glaze on pottery.

We wish it were possible to impress our masons with the fact that thin joints make the best walls, and require the least quantities of water and cement, both of which are chemically stronger and better for being mixed for the purpose.

The Sense of Smell in Insects.

Fernand Papillon, in Popular Science Monthly, says: Entomologists maintain that scent is very delicate in most insects, and rely on plausible conjectures on this subject, but they do not as yet know what the seat of the sense of smell in insects is.

"HOW MANY PEOPLE," says Jeremy Taylor, "are busy in this world gathering together a handful of thorns to sit upon?"

EVERY NATURE must have the sub-soil ploughing of sorrow, before it can recognize either its present poverty or possible wealth.

CASTOR OIL AMONG THE CHINESE.—A writer states that castor oil has so little effect on Chinese intestines that the Celestials use it habitually in cookery.

NO STABLE IS FIT FOR USE, or economical, unless provision is made for draining the urine from it as soon as it falls.

ATTENTION is directed to the advertisement of Ellwanger & Barry, nurserymen, Rochester, N. Y. They are large and successful growers of fruit and ornamental trees, shrubs and plants.

Don't fail to read the advertisement of T. C. Maxwell & Brothers, Geneva, N. Y. They are reliable men, and have a large stock of the best of Trees, Plants, etc. It will pay you to correspond with them.

"WHERE IS the hoe, Sambo?" "Wid the rake, massa." "Well, where is the rake?" "Wid the hoe." "But where are both?" "Why, bof togeder, massa; you pears to be bery 'ticular this morning."

IN SOUTH AMERICA and Australia it is stated that the immersion of hides twenty-four hours in a two per cent. solution of carbolic acid, and subsequently drying them, has been successfully substituted for the more tedious and expensive process of salting.

WALNUT-TREES sometimes attain prodigious size and great age. An Italian architect mentions having seen at St. Nicholas, in Lorraine, a single plank of the wood of the walnut twenty-five feet wide, upon which the Emperor, Frederick III., had given a sumptuous banquet.

PURIFYING CIDER BARRELS.—A correspondent of the Boston Cultivator accomplishes it this way:—I cleansed a cask that had boiled cider in it; it is as sweet as a new one. I put about two quarts of lime in it and filled it with water and let it stand 24 hours, then turned it out and rinsed thoroughly with water.

TESTING THE VALUE OF ROOTS.—The following anecdote was told at a meeting of the Elmira, N. Y., Farmers' Club, by a member who thought roots did not amount to much: "I knew of a controversy between two neighbors in Pennsylvania on the merits of flat turnips, which they mutually agreed to settle by a test, and to make it interesting, they made a wager of one hundred dollars.

THE SNAKE AND CAT.—There is something wholly significant, writes an American naturalist, in the gleam of the snake's eye—it is a look generally of the most malicious nature. Cats have the same look when irritated. At such times there is a ray of vicious intelligence in the eyes of both cat and snake, and that they are both of them animated by a deadly purpose is soon perceived, should any creature be in their power.

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