Poisonous Wall-Paper.

Dr. Kedzie, 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. He also exhibited the simple test for the arsenic, of which we gave a brief notice at the time. He has since favored us with a copy of the Report of the Michigan Board of Health, containing valuable contributions from his pen, the result of careful investigation on more than one subject of importance, and some additional facts relative to the deleterious effects of poisonous paper, in addition to several which he stated to us. Dr. Kedzie, of the Michigan Agricultural College, showed stated to us.

stated to us.

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. Soon after occupying the room her health began to fail, lameness came on, and darting pains through various parts of the body, languor, fever, sores, &c. Medical advice and treatment did no good. When she left home for a few weeks her health improved, but she relapsed on returning home. After some months the paper of the room a rew weeks her health improved, but she relapsed on re-turning home. After some months the paper of the room was suspected as the cause. The girl was removed, and entirely recovered her health. On analysis, nearly five grains of arsenic were found for each square foot of surface. The room remained vacant a year, when it was occupied by a boy for a time. He soon became similarly affected. On removal to another room he recovered. Several cases of a similar alcorator accurred.

similar character occurred.

The only sure way of detecting this poison is by chemical tests, although a practiced eye will often do so from the tests, although a practiced eye will often do so from the color. A bright grass green may always be suspected. But all greens are not poisonous; many do not contain a trace of arsenic. Then, again, other colors are mixed with and obscure the green where the poison is in large proportion. In such cases, a good microscope will often detect specks of green. To be certain on any doubtful point, place a portion of the suspected paper on a table and pour half a teaspoonful of liquid ammonia upon it; a blue precipitate shows the presence of the copper with the arsenic; then drop into the solution a small crystal of nitrate of silver (which is white and clear), and the yellow precipitate which forms about the intrate indicates arsenic itself.

tms country, but the mortar is better. It never becomes soft after use, from age—Into this, fine and coarse gravel can be worked by the trowel, as the joints are flushed. For eisterns, Rosendale and Portland cement takes the place of lime, with only less sand, and makes walls as solid as Ransome stone. The magnesia of the cement secons to have a peculiar affinity for unburnt limestance and the agreed to settle by a test, and to make it interesting them. surfaces

surfaces.

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. This is easily swept and washed, and wears always a clean appearance. As a paste to repair old eisterns and stop cracks, with or without the addition of a small quantity of iron filings and salammoniac, this is very valuable.

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.

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. When meat is exposed to the air, in a smell in insects is. When meat is exposed to the air, in a few moments these make their appearance in a place where none had before been seen. It refuse matter or bodies of animals are left on the ground, insects flock to them at once, feeding on such substances, and depositing their eggs in them. Seent alone seems to guide them, exclusively of sight even; for, if the object of their desire is hidden, they easily manage to find it. A curious fact as to the scent of insects is furnished by those kinds that prefer decaying substances. A beautiful arum is found in our woods, the cuckoo-pintle, whose white flower diffuses a disgusting odor. Now, the inside of this flower is often filled with flies, snails and plant-lice, seeking the putrid source of this fetid smell. We may see the little creatures in quest of their food or of a fit place to lay their eggs, move about in all directions, and quit most unwillingly the flower whose scent has misled them.

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

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

Altertion 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.

"Wilene 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 inmersion 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 produguous size and great WALNUT-TREES sometimes attain productions 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 sumptious banquet. In the Baidar Valley, near Balaklava, in the Crimea, stands a walnut-tree at least 1,000 years old. It yields annually from S0,000 to 100,000 nuts, and belongs to five Tartar families, who share its produce equally.

which forms about the mitrate indicates arsenic itself.

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. Sand is useful to diminish the cracking as the paste or mortar dries, thereby to give it "body" and help fill up. Quick mortar should be made up every day, for each day's work, which is contrary to practice in this country, but the mortar is better. It never becomes soft after use, from age—Into this, fine and coarse gravel can be worked by the trowel, as the joints are flushed. For cisterns, Rosendale and Portland cement takendal.

as Ransome stone. The magnesia of the cement seems to agreed to settle by a test, and to make it interesting, they have a peculiar affinity for unburnt limestone and brick made a wager of one hundred dollars. They took a yoke of cattle as nearly alike as possible; one man tying his ox to the fence and feeding h.m all the turnips he could eat and nothing else. The other man was to tie his ox up in the same manner and throw snowballs at him and nothing else. At the end of a week of these respective ways of feeding, each man was to have his respective ways of and his which exhibited the greatest gain was to take down the money. The man who threw the snowballs raked down the pile."

THE SNAKE AND CAT.—There is something wholly significant, writes an American naturalist, in the glean 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 deadily purpose is soon perceived, should any creature be in their power. A bird has been seen to whirl round and round in a circle, near the ground, not in the usual manner of flying, but with a short, frightened, fluttering motion, till it fell to the surface, when it was soon in the mouth of the snake. Now we believe a cat is the only quadruped that will face a snake. We have watched a big tomcat stare at a large snake for an hour together, puss all the time with his back up, his hair on end, and his tail gently waving to and Iro, the snake at the same time gazing just as intently on the cat. THE SNAKE AND CAT. -There is something wholly signi

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