

HINTS WORTH READING.

Some of the following suggestions may be a little too late, but the lateness of the season may render them appropriate even yet.

1. Clean your cellars at some odd time soon. Look into your pork and beef tubs, and see that all is right. Sort out the bad potatoes and from fruit the good. Separate the different varieties, if they have mixed in any way. Remove from your cellar all decaying matter; and as soon as the weather becomes warm enough; give the cellar a thorough airing, and white-wash its walls neatly. Do not, however, remove the winter embankments, till all severe frosts have passed.

2. Select, if you have not done so, the best kinds of seed for sowing and planting; use your best judgement in this matter or take the advice of some competent and disinterested person. Provide *now*, for all you want this spring. A little care and expense in this line, will reward you well.

3. Repair your fences, or make new ones, when needed; the frost is out, and the sooner this work is done, the better. Make all your permanent fences strong and durable; this is the only mode that will pay.

4. Keep your hogs out of all fields, except those you design for their range. Be especially careful that they do not get into your clover fields; they will do harm enough there in a day, to pay for putting up a good many fences.

5. If your land is sandy, or a heavy turf, you may plow, with safety; but if it is clayey, and has been plowed recently, wait till it is thoroughly dry; plowing it while wet or damp, will make it hard the whole season.

6. Your hens are laying, you have plenty of eggs; preserve those you don't want for cooking or for setting your hens; pack them in salt, with the little ends down, or keep them immersed in highly saturated lime-water. In either of these ways, eggs may be kept for months; if not years.

7. By the way, if you have a warm place for nests, let two or three hens *sit* as soon as they please. A little care will preserve the brood when hatched, and early chickens are delicious for the table, in the fall; or the pullets, if kept, will lay eggs next summer, if well cared for.

8. You may do certain work in your garden, as soon as the ground is dry enough to work safely. Lettuce, onions and early peas may be put in as soon as you please. In clay soils, we repeat, *never stir the soil when damp*. Currant bushes may be transplanted, or new cuttings set. Manure may be prepared, and that which is well rotted, may be spaded in. Mulching may be done, when you do not wish to stir the ground for some months.

9. Do not allow hay or straw to be wasted; preserve all that is not needed, for use at some future time; it will perhaps be needed when least expected.

10. When the ground is dry enough, transplant whatever trees need to be transplanted. Do this with the hardest trees, as soon as you can. Take great care in transplanting, to tear the roots as little as possible, and to do the work well. When you finish setting out a tree, mulch the ground well, with some coarse manure; this will prevent the effects of drought. When you buy trees for transplanting, be sure to get the kinds you wish. Nurserymen sometimes make loose statements. Deal only with responsible and reliable men.

ASPARAGUS.—Those who have asparagus beds, must not expect that they will take care of themselves. If a good top dressing of short stable manure has not already been dug in, we recommend that as soon as possible a compost of stable manure and marsh muck mixed with three bushels of wood ashes to every cubic yard of the compost be spread over the bed to the depth of two to three inches. When this is done, then sow two or three quarts of salt to the square rod, and it will be found that the asparagus beds will repay the owner handsomely for his trouble. The asparagus plant is greedy and exhausting, and when not supplied with manure, the young shoots come up in the spring like pipe stems, and one can hardly cut a good sized bunch from a square rod of ground. Now we might just as well have asparagus coming up in the spring with shoots like hoe handles, but the ground must be made rich in the fall. A good coating such as is recommended above, protects the plants from the winter, and even when late applied,