

PRESERVATION OF THE MENTAL POWERS.

Fatuity from old age cannot be cured; but it may be prevented by employing the mind constantly in reading and conversation in the evening of life. Dr. Johnson ascribes the fatuity of Dean Swift to two causes: first to a resolution made in his youth that he would never wear spectacles, from the want of which he was unable to read in the decline of life; and second to his avarice, which led him to abscond from visitors, or deny himself to company, by which means he deprived himself of the only two methods by which ideas are acquired, or old ones renovated. His mind languished from want of exercise, and gradually collapsed into idiocy, which state he spent the close of his life, in a hospital, founded by himself for persons afflicted with the same disorder, of which he finally died. Country people when they have no relish for books, when they lose the ability to work, to go abroad, from age or weakness, are very apt to become fatuitous; especially as they are too often deserted in their old age by the younger branches of the families; in consequence of which the minds become torpid from the want of society and conversation. Fatuity is more rare in cities than in country places, only conversation can be had in them on more easy terms, and it is less common among women than men only because their employments are of such a nature as to admit of their being carried on by their firesides, and in a sedentary posture. The illustrious Dr. Franklin exhibited a striking instance of the influence of reading, writing, and conversation, in prolonging a sound and active state of all the faculties of mind. In his eighty-fourth year he discovered no one mark in any of them of the weakness of decay usually observed in the minds of persons at that advanced period of life.—*Dr. Rush.*

POINTS WORTH KNOWING ABOUT POULTRY.—The following summary is derived from a new book, by Mr. Trotter, of Hexham, which being praised by the *Gateshead Observer* is sure to be worth consulting:—"Cochin China"—excellent at table, and capital layers, although Mr. Trotter gives no countenance to the tales of "two and occasionally three eggs in the day." He does not much commend the 'Malay'—this fowl being a great eater, and, when eaten in turn, is not of the best quality. The flesh of the 'Spanish' fowl, on the contrary, 'is all that can be desired by the most fastidious epicure;' and the hen, 'a most abundant layer,' lays 'fine, large, and delicately flavoured egg.' If she have a fault, it is the largeness of her eggs; 'for large eggs do not bring their relative value, and it would be ridiculous to suppose that they do not require more nutriment to produce them than smaller ones.' The plumage of the Spaniard is almost invariably black. 'A few show a white feather;' and on such [very properly] Mr. Trotter 'looks with suspicion.' Yet 'birds of the purist description have been known to change from black to almost white.' Next come the 'Game' the 'Dorking' and the 'Dutch'—the last unequalled in the production of eggs. A dutch hen has been known to lay 338 eggs in three months, weighing 42 lbs

or about 10 times her own weight! The 'Polish' like the Dutch, is [of the Black variety] a good layer, and seldom shows any disposition to sit; consequently is called an 'everyday layer.' The produce of the 'Bantam' bing, commercially, unmarketable, 'this breed is out of place in the farm-yard.' Mr. Trotter leaves it, with other fowls, in the hands of the 'faucy' fair."

DEPTH OF DRAINS.—A writer in the *Agricultural Gazette*, who represents that he has had great experience in drainage, concludes that the proper depth of drains must depend on the texture of the soil—that the depth should be the point where saturation is arrested. Experienced persons, he says, can readily tell where this point is; and those inexperienced may easily ascertain it by having three short drains made early in autumn—one 2½, one of 3, and one of 4 feet deep. The drains that first discharge the water after a rain will be at the right depth for that soil.

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POSTMASTERS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

In consequence of complaints having been received, of Postmasters exacting postage for the *Agriculturist*; we would, for their future guidance observe, that by the special permission of the Post Master General, the *Agriculturist* is transmitted to Subscribers FREE OF CHARGE.

EXHIBITION OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION.

This annual event, which will take place the present year in the City of Hamilton, early in October, is already exciting considerable enquiry and attention. It is expected by many, that the next Exhibition will even exceed, both in magnitude and interest, the last one in Toronto.—The citizens of Hamilton have already evinced their deep interest in the Exhibition, by pledging themselves through their late Mayor, to subscribe £500 towards the funds. A highly respectable and efficient Local Committee has been organised, and, we are informed, a very convenient and picturesque site selected, near the Railway terminus and steam boat landing, for the holding of the Show. The Board of Agriculture will meet the Local Committee on the 8th inst., for the purpose of maturing the necessary arrangements. The public may therefore look forward with confidence, that everything will be done to make the next Exposition