

A smoking lamp is an exceedingly unpleasant thing, and is very often caused by the wick not being in proper order. It is a good plan to soak new wicks in vinegar, and allow them to dry thoroughly before being used.

The best way of watering plants, especially ferns, is to stand the pots in a pail of water, and leave them there until all bubbling ceases, which shows that the water has well soaked through the mould. This should be done about twice a week in winter, and when it is cold weather lukewarm water should be used. To keep plants healthy and green, their leaves should be sponged over at least once a week.

LINSEED TEA FOR THROAT TROUBLES.

The value of linseed tea in cases of catarrh, and in throat affections, is due to its demulcent and soothing effect on the inflamed surface of the mucous membrane. Put an ounce of linseed into a quart of water, and boil it gently to a pint. Strain, and add lemon syrup to taste, or half an ounce of licorice-root may be boiled with the linseed. The remedy may be taken repeatedly.

Earache is very painful. A dust of ground black pepper, put into a dry thin piece of cotton and tied, inserted in the ear, sometimes gives relief.

For constipation, drink a glass of hot water with a spoonful of wheat bran stirred in it every morning.

The Garden and Orchard.

(CONDUCTED BY MR. GEO. MOORE).

RURAL IMPROVEMENTS.

It is gratifying to note that there is a growing disposition on the part of men of means to lay out their money in improving and beautifying their estates. The object is a praiseworthy one, inasmuch as it gives employment to labouring men and at same time increases the value of the place. We recently paid a hurried visit to the estate of Mr. Portious, on the Island of Orleans, near Quebec, and found that gentleman had a number

of men at work turning the wilderness into a beautiful pleasure ground.

The site is all that can be desired for such a purpose, situated on the south side of the Island on the bank of the St. Lawrence, but at a considerable elevation above the water level, it affords many commanding views of the mighty river. In it, too, are rocky ravines and shady glens, and just enough of wood to give ample opportunity for making bowery walks and drives overshadowed by the monarchs of the forest.

Of course, these changes cannot be made without a considerable outlay, but this does not trouble Mr. Portious, who went to work in the right direction by securing the services of the most eminent landscape gardener, Mr. Olmstead, of New York, to furnish him with plans, which are being carried out under the supervision of Mr. Thomas Brown, gardener, of Quebec and a large corps of assistants.

The place when finished will be one of the most extensive and beautiful pleasure parks in the vicinity of Quebec if not in the whole Province.

The public spirit of the proprietors is to be commended for the reasons given above; we have the pleasure of congratulating him upon it, and venture the hope that he will live long to enjoy the fruits of his enterprise, and that many others gentlemen of capital will be induced to go and do likewise, and spread their money and the taste for rural beauty at the same time thus conferring benefits upon their fellowmen.

GEO. MOORE.

BOGS AND PONDS.

In a recent issue I showed how the waste places in a pleasure ground can be embellish by planting the different varieties of hardy ferns, and in like manner bogs and swampy places can be rendered beautiful by the use of some aquatic or semi-aquatic plants.

Wherever there is a running brook, a pond, or a piece of moist ground, these plants may be cultivated; but if the water is quite stagnant the experiment is hopeless, and the plants that are suitable to the purpose are many of these favorites familiar to many: our *Lilium Canadense*, Scarlet Lobelia or Cardinal flower; *Eulalia Japonica*, or Japanese grass with its peculiar variegation of horizontal alternated bands of green and gold;