

—and secured with a light chain fifteen feet long, so that its place for feeding may be changed once a day, it is always ready. When done with in autumn, it is turned with the rest of the flock, and requires no further care till spring. One such animal was used for a 15-cow dairy till 18 years old; another until 17 years old; and a third, now 13 years old, churns from 2,000 to 3,000 lbs. of butter yearly. Both endless chain and circular wheel power may be used.

A RAT SUCKING A COW.

Many anecdotes are told of the cunning and sagacity of the rat, as well as of its daring, and the ingenuity of its schemes for obtaining food, but the following fact having come under my own observation, may not be considered unworthy of notice; for although similar instances have, I believe, been recorded, they are of such rare occurrence as not to obtain general credence. On going into my own cow-shed, a short time since, to see a newly-calved cow, I found her lying down, quietly chewing the cud, and to my astonishment, I observed a huge rat lying at full length between her hind legs, sucking vigorously at one of the teats. My first impression was that the rat was dead, however he had got there: but I soon discerned the bright eye of the rat turned toward me, the point of the cow's teat in his mouth and the quick suction movement of his jaws and throat. So fascinated did the rat appear with his refreshing occupation, that he took no further notice of my entrance than by watching me out of the corner of one eye, and was not even disturbed by my calling loudly to the gardener at the lower end of the yard to come and witness the novel sight. His exclamation on seeing was, "Well, sir, I'm sure I never did see such things as that in all my life."

Nor was it until he stooped with the intention of seizing the thief by the tail that the rat attempted to move. He then sprang suddenly from his soft bed and made a dash towards the corner of the pen, where he quickly met with the reward of his temerity and was knocked over with a stick.

INDOOR GARDENING.

One of the prettiest ways of having flowers in rooms is perhaps the fashion of little hang-

ing baskets. In flower stands and on tables, and even in window boxes, it is often difficult to arrange climbers nicely; they either require height in the way of trellises, which we find it hard to give, or they droop down in an ungraceful fashion. In the use of hanging baskets neither of these things happen. The climbers may if they like twine up the wires or cord, or they may still more prettily droop down round the basket. One of the prettiest things for this is the little Campanula, its bright blue flowers trail down neatly and yet closely into a lovely carpet, and if in the midst we place a pretty fern, its fronds wave over and make quite a pretty center. I was told the other day that the *Adiantum cuneatum*, one of the very loveliest sorts of Maiden Hair, did well for such a purpose, and this would be, I think, the prettiest kind to try; although it is a stove fern, it has been kept for years in a room window, and, in fact, it seems one of the most easy of its class to manage.

The wild pink geranium is another delightful and very aromatic basket plant, and the little blue lobelia, and the beautiful *Torenia Asiatica* are also amongst those which droop down gracefully and show their beautiful blue flowers.

In arranging these baskets, the grand thing, I think, is to give enough drainage. I always put broken charcoal covered with a thin layer of moss, adding afterwards the soil that the plants require, and the charcoal occupying a space of perhaps two inches, a little water generally collects there. Any one used to watering these baskets soon comes to know by weight if they are dry or wet, and if by any chance one morning the soil should seem still moist, the daily watering ought to be then omitted.

Common black hair-pins are excellent pegs to use for fastening down the runners of creeping things, when we want not to show a quantity of sticks, and for tying up window plants the narrow dark green ribbon often used for book markers is the best and neatest substitute for bass when a thin strip of it is not found suitable. I have often tried tying up plants with worsted, but that holds water too much and is also untidy looking, and threads of netting silk, though invaluable for trainers (on which the plants twine themselves,) are too apt to cut the stems to be safe for tying.

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

The information we receive about the crops in Canada and abroad is most cheering. An abundant harvest will be raised everywhere and the farmer will make up this year for the short coming of the past. Prices have a tendency to fall, as will be seen by the table below:—

Potash, per cwt.,	\$5.60 to 5.65	Wheat, U.C. White, per 60 lbs.,	\$1.05 to 1.10
Pearlash, "	6.50 to 6.55	" U.C. Red, "	0.92 to 0.97
Flour, Fine, per 196 lbs.....	3.25 to 3.40	Peas, per 66 lbs.,	0.70 to 0.72½
No. 2 Superfine,	3.75 to 3.90	Indian Corn, per 56 lbs.,	0.55 to 0.56
No. 1 "	4.00 to 4.15	Barley, per 50 lbs.,	0.75 to 0.80
Fancy "	4.40 to 4.45	Oats, per 40 lbs.,	0.45 to 0.50
Extra "	4.55 to 4.60	Butter, per lb.,	0.15 to 0.16
S. Extra Superfine	4.75 to 4.80	Cheese, per lb.,	0.07 to 0.08