

An experiment made by Dr. Hunter, upon two of his children, illustrates, in a striking manner, the pernicious effects of even a small portion of intoxicating liquors at this tender age. To one of the children he gave, every day after dinner, a full glass of sherry: the child was five years of age, and unaccustomed to the use of wine. To the other child, of nearly the same age, and equally unused to wine, he gave an orange. In the course of a week, a very marked difference was perceptible in the pulse, urine, and evacuations, from the bowels of the two children. The pulse of the first was raised, the urine high coloured, and the evacuations destitute of their usual quantity of bile.—In the other child, no change whatever was produced. He then reversed the experiment, giving the first the orange, and to the second the wine, and the results corresponded: the child who had the orange continued well, and the system of the other got straightway into disorder, as in the first experiment.

Mercellin relates an instance of seven children in a family whose bowels became infested with worms, from the use of stimulants. They were cured by substituting water for the pernicious beverage.

In this city, spirits, particularly gin, are given to infants and children, to a frightful extent. I once saw an old Irish woman give diluted spirits to an infant just born. A short time since one of these dram-drinking children, about eight years of age, was brought into one of our hospitals. The attendants, from its emaciated appearance, considered the child was dying from mere starvation; which was true enough, in a certain sense. Food was accordingly offered and pressed upon it, but the boy would not even put it to his lips. The next day it was discovered that the mother brought the child very near a pint of gin, every drop of which, before night, he had consumed; a quantity which must have destroyed life, if dram-drinking had not been the habit of the boy.

It is easy to discover when children have been fed upon spirits: they are always emaciated; they have a lean, yellow, haggard look; the eyes sunk, the lips pale, and the teeth discoloured, the cadaverous aspect of the countenance being most fearful. They are continually suffering from bowel-complaints and convulsive disorders; which, under these circumstances, terminate invariably in an early death.

There is a circumstance connected with the dieting of children with which parents ought to be acquainted; certain articles of food, most wholesome in themselves, and taken with advantage by others, disagreeing with an individual child. We cannot conceive why, but presume it depends upon a hidden peculiarity of constitution, which we call idiosyncrasy, and which generally remains through life. Eggs, milk, sugar, cheese, mutton, and other kinds of food, will thus have an almost poisonous effect, even when taken in the smallest quantity, and however disguised by the most ingenious cookery. Dr. Prout mentions the case of an individual who could not eat mutton in any form. The peculiarity was supposed to be owing to caprice, and the mutton was repeatedly disguised, and given unknown to the individual, but uniformly with the same result

of producing vomiting and diarrhoea. And from the severity of the effects, which were in fact those of a virulent poison, there can be little doubt, that if the use of mutton had been persisted in, it would soon have destroyed the life of the individual. But whilst we admit this rare peculiarity, we must be careful not to indulge the dainty dislikes of a child to substances which when eaten produces no ill effect. For the mind's sake, as well as the body, such a disposition cannot be too early and vigorously opposed.

*To be continued.*

## Agriculture.

### FALL PLOUGHING.

November is the best time for ploughing lands that are to be planted the next spring. I am on the borders of controversy in making this statement; but it seems to me that the following advantages arise from the practice:

1st, At this season the team is stronger, and the weather more favorable for breaking up grass-land than in the spring.

2d, As the spring of the year is the most hurrying season to the farmer, it is a great help to him to have the ploughing done the fall previous.

3d, In turning the land over so late in the season, nothing green starts up, and the frosts of winter immediately following, the grass roots are *killed*—the surface, also, exposed to the action of the frost, is melted, and in the spring the land will be divested of every living plant, and crumble down before the harrow as fine as a garden bed. The labor in weeding and planting the corn and potatoes is considerably lessened by this means.

4th, The winter arrangements of the worms are entirely reversed. I speak particularly of the cut worm, my land not being infested with the wire worm.

Fall ploughing on my land is a complete remedy for the ravages of the cut worm. Contrary to usual practice, a small field, about one and a half acres, was broken up last May and planted to corn. In planting, I noticed that there were great numbers of small cut worms in the lands, and took the hint at once, that there would be trouble in due time. By the time the corn was up, the worms were ready for operations, and although we went over the field three different times, destroying all that could be found, they still got the mastery, and at weeding time not one hill in two hundred was left standing. The field was replanted to the small early Canada corn on the 15th of June, being careful in planting to kill all the worms that could be found. Two days after this two men destroyed between five and six hundred of these worms in an afternoon in the same field. The cut worm does not usually work in corn hills after the 20th to the 25th of June, and as the second planting did not come up till after the 20th, it stood well. Twice as many hills were planted in the rows as were planted originally of the larger corn, and a harvested