stance burning with a blaze—the flame of a
, of a kitchen fire, of a burning building—
hydrogen in the act of combining with oxy-
producing water. On the other hand, when
see any organic substance burning with a
heat without blaze like charcoal or anthracite
it is carbon combining with oxygen, and
ucing generally, carbonic acid. If the blaze
nces a good deal of light, you may be pretty
that the substance contains both carbon
hydrogen, the light coming principally from
intensely heated carbon before it is burned.
ew England Farmer.

SARDINIAN FARMHOUSE.—In this court are
ements of husbandry, antique enough to tax
genuity of Jonathan Oldbuck himself as to
real origin; and in a snug corner are neat
of cork pails, there placed in pleasing an
tion of the coming milking time. There is
mendous baying and rushing forth of enor-
boar-hounds, silenced with difficulty by an
ly tremendeous "Ai ha!" and "Zitto!" from
rmer, where at the noble creatures wag their
nd crouch their several resting-places. And
armer, with his short kilt of black home-
wide white cotton drawers and sleeves—so
white, too—and loose sheepskin, sleeveless
with the shaggy wool outside, neatly-gai-
legs, long black beard, and knife-garnished
certainly he does not look much like a
ful tiller of land and tender of flocks; he
mind at least) much more resembles a
o banditti." Nevertheless poor Renzo is
ful and harmless enough, and we may as
ollow him into his cheerful and hospitable
n." The first room is, as usual, the gener-
partment. The hugh smoking smoulder
occupies the centre; in one corner, neat-
ed up, are the sleeping mats, which at
will be unfurled and placed in a circle
the log, to serve as couches for the young-
mbers of the family; the luxury of beds
reserved for married couples or occasion-
sts.—*National Magazine.*

SNOW.—The snow was proverbially called the
farmer's manure" before scientific analysis
own that it contained a larger per centage
monia than rain. The snow serves as a pro-
mantle to the tender herbage and the
of all plants against the fierce blasts and
winter. An examination of snow in Si-
howed that when the temperature of the
seventy-two degrees below zero, the tem-
re of the snow a little below the surface
enty nine degrees above zero, over one
d degrees difference. The snow keeps
th just below its surface in a condition to
chemical changes which would not hap-
he earth was bare and frozen to a great
The snow prevents exhalations from the
nd is a powerful absorbent, retaining and
g to the earth gases arising from vege-
nd animal decomposition. The snow, though it falls heavily at the door of the poor, and brings death and starvation to the fowls of the air and beasts of the field, is yet of incalculable benefit in a climate like ours, and especially at this time when the deep springs of the earth were failing and the mill streams were refusing their motive powers to the craving appetites of man. If, during the last month, the clouds had dropped rain instead of snow, we might have bored the earth in vain for water; but, with a foot of snow upon the earth and many feet upon the mountains, the hum of the mill-stones and the harsh notes of the saw will soon and long testify to its beneficence. Bridges, earth-works, and the fruits of engineering skill and toil may be swept away, but men will rejoice in the general good and adore the benevolence of Him who orders all things aright. The snow is a great purifier of the atmosphere. The absorbent power of capillary action of snow is like that of a sponge or charcoal. Immediately after the snow has fallen, melt it in a clean vessel and taste it, and you will find immediately evidences of its impurity. Try some a day or two old, and it becomes nauseous, especially in cities. Snow water makes the mouth harsh and dry. It has the same effect upon the skin, and upon the hands and feet produces the painful malady of chilblains. The following easy experiment illustrates beautifully the absorbent property of snow: Take a lump of snow (a piece of snow crust answers well) of three or four inches in length, and hold in the flame of a lamp; not a drop of water will fall from the snow, but the water, as fast as formed, will penetrate or be drawn up into the mass of snow by capillary attraction. It is by virtue of this attraction that the snow purifies the atmosphere by absorbing and retianing its noxious and noisome gases and odors.—*Exchange.*

AN AUSTRALIAN BANQUET.—A banquet of a novel character has been held in Melbourne. Some time since an acclimitization society was set on foot by Mr. Edward Wilson, who has effected so much in the way of introducing foreign animals, game, singing birds, &c., into Victoria. This society is now numerous, and has several life members. They have had an experimental dinner, at which were served up many of the native animals, birds, and fishes. The bill of fare comprised kangaroo, walluby, wombat, bandicoot, opossum, and porcupine, among the animals; black swan, wild turkey, paroquet, waterhens, and wattle-birds, among the fowl; and most of the fish of the Australian seas and fresh waters.

VITALITY OF SEEDS.—There is a great difference in the duration of vitality of seeds. Those which have much oil in their composition spoil rapidly, owing to the fatty matter becoming rancid. Seeds of different character, particularly those protected by a shell. Cucumber seeds have been kept good nearly 20 years, corn 30 years, and wheat for more than 1000 years.