

scribed, or borrowed the money and made theirs. We see why Agricultural Societies have difficulty in keeping the breath of life in them, and for practical purposes are nearly useless; why monthly meetings for discussion and mutual improvement cannot be sustained; why young men's societies, and indeed all societies of a public character, have "languished and languishing have died." Yes, here is the evil, and it is deep-seated. We shall never get on, we shall never be a prosperous, happy, or united people, we shall never be able to run in the race of improvement with any chance of success, until the absurd, artificial, pultry social distinctions that obtain among us are rooted out. But we have gone further than we intended at the commencement, and must leave the further consideration of the subject to a future occasion.

IMPROVEMENT OF SHEEP.

There are many of our wool growers who kept sheep, the average weight of whose fleeces is not more than two and a half pounds, and the wool not worth more than twenty-three to twenty-five cents a pound, the past season. Now it is more profitable to give a large price for a good flock than to get a bad one for nothing. The extra weight of those sheep whose fleeces will weigh from four to five pounds, and the wool of which would be worth thirty cents a pound, the past season, together with the extra price per pound, will pay the interest on from ten to fourteen dollars, to say nothing of the extra worth of their lambs. I kept a flock of Merino sheep and have fifty-four ewes, the fleeces of which taken from them last June, weighed two hundred and seventy pounds four ounces, washed wool, or five pounds to each fleece. The lightest fleece four pound six ounces, the heaviest seven pounds four ounces. Many people, who kept unprofitable sheep, say they cannot be at the expense of buying those that are high. To such I would say, if one half or one third of your whole number of ewes are middling sheep, keep them for breeders, and turn the remainder with the weathers for mutton. Get a first rate buck, and a few prime ewes; and each year at shearing time number your sheep by putting figures on them with tar, and put the number on paper, carrying out the weight of each fleece, and those that are objectionable turn off to fat without raising any stock from them.—[*Far. Mon. Visitor.*]

STORING ROOTS FOR WINTER.

It is important that the farmer have his roots properly secured for the winter. To such as have not cellars sufficiently large and convenient for this object, the best plan is to store them in some place contiguous to the stock which is to consume them. For this purpose a piece of ground should be selected, from which the water will run off freely. On the surface of this the roots may be placed in high conical, or oblong heaps, having an exterior as even and compact as possible. The long roots should be regularly laid up, with the large ends on the outside, and in the form of a steep roof, and of the size required, and as these walls are carried up, the interior may be filled up with the roots, taking care to give them as much compactness as possible. When the pile is complete, it should first be thatched with straw or hay, so as to conduct to the bottom of the outside, whatever water may find its way to the interior. This should be covered with a coating of clay, or the most tenacious earth that is convenient to the depth of 4 or 6 inches; or 8 to 12 inches is not objectionable. The first thickness is not sufficient to exclude the frost in moderately severe winters in this latitude, but this we do not consider of consequence, unless the roots are required for use while frozen; as, if kept carefully covered while in this condition, the frost will be extracted gradually on the returning warmth of spring, and the roots will be left in every respect as good as if they had not been touched by it.

Some winters since, we had a large pile of sugar beets carefully protected in the way described, from which we were feeding through the inclement season. They were taken from one end, which was carefully closed by straw whenever opened, but owing to the carelessness of the stock-tender, this was left open for a day or two of the coldest weather, and when we first noticed it, we concluded our crop of one or two thousand

bushels, would be completely ruined. We ordered the whole to be closed and examined the other end and sides, but from the inadequacy of the covering, and the free circulation of the air inside, the roots had become frozen as far towards the centre as we examined.—Of course we looked to the ruin of the heap as inevitable, which we regretted the more as it contained the roots intended for seed, we used what we could while thus frozen, and hurried on the consumption as fast as possible, but had made little progress before an unusually early spring had fully established itself. We still kept the pile carefully covered, to prevent the escape of the frost, as we fully expected the roots would go with it. Our surprise may be conjectured, when on visiting the heap one day, we found all the frost gone, and the roots—every root—was fresh, hard, and plump and juicy, as when first put up. They kept in this condition until they began to sprout, when those intended for seed were set out and bore as finely as any we ever saw. The remainder were carried to a dry place, where they retained their flavour and full value till the last of May, by which time they were entirely consumed. This experiment taught us that it is not the freezing, but the sudden thawing that destroys roots, fruits, and vegetables of all kinds. We have since noticed that apples in barrels may be frozen hard, yet if kept in a cellar or close brick warehouse and the frost allowed gradually to escape, they are unimpaired, and trees and many vegetables that are caught by a late frost in spring, or an early frost in Autumn, if shielded from the sun and kept at a low temperature till it has escaped, are not materially injured. For the above reason the experienced cook puts frozen vegetables in very cold water, as near the freezing point as possible, by which the frost is gradually extracted from the vegetables, and their flavour and character remain unchanged.

Potatoes required for summer use, are sometimes buried in dry sandy land at considerable depth, either in the woods or the north side of a hill, and we have seen them taken out from such situations on the first of June, as fresh as when put in. Care must, however, be taken, that the soil is such as to hold no water at the bottom, or the roots will inevitably spoil. On clay soil, the only recourse is to have a ditch surrounding the pile, and sufficiently deep to conduct away any water that may fall on the bottom. One or more holes, according to the size of the heap, should be left on the top, which must be loosely stopped with hay or straw, to allow the escape of gas, which is constantly generated from the roots. The above principles are applicable to nearly all vegetables under similar circumstances.—[*Agriculturist.*]

To the Editors of the Canada Farmer.—

W. Gwillimbury, August 12th, 1847.

DEAR SIRS—I intended to write to you before concerning an insect that has done some harm to the spring wheat. When the wheat first turned white, I examined the stalk and found a small worm above the upper joint, it was three-tenths of an inch long, and one-twentieth of an inch thick. After the stalk turned white it cut its way through the stalk and crawled up between it and the leaf—nearly to the top of the leaf—and there has remained for upwards of three weeks. I examined some of them yesterday and found that they had not changed their form. The pressure of the leaf has made them somewhat flat; they have a very thin skin. I found, on examination, that they were hatching into a fly. I could see the shape of the body, head and wings, but what sort of a fly I cannot tell. I was in hopes to have found some account of it in your excellent paper. As soon as it comes out I shall examine it. I think it cannot be the Hessian fly. It will be near the size of a mosquito. If you can find out what it is, I wish you would write something about it in your paper, for I should like to know its name and character. It has not, so far as I can learn, done very much damage. The fall wheat is nearly all cut in this neighborhood. The crop, generally speaking, is light, it was in most places thinned out by the winter. I have no more to write at present, but remain yours truly,

TIMOTHY ROGERS.

With reference to the insect seen by Mr. Rogers, we are unable to say without a more particular description, whether it has been heard of before and is known to those who study such subjects, or whether it is something "new under the sun." We have hastily examined the authorities at hand, and among the numerous enemies of the wheat field whose names and descriptions are given, we met with none like that above mentioned. It is clearly not the Hessian Fly. The latter is nearly always found at the root, and in the chrysalis state is inactive, indeed we

are not convinced that it ever moves from where the eggs are deposited until all its transformations are completed. The wheat insect, or weevil as it is sometimes called, operates exclusively on the ear, as do also several other insects of a similar kind. We find a mention in one place of a small worm found by a Mr. Sill, of Pennsylvania, "in the upper joints of the stems of the wheat, and within the kernels," but no further description is given of them. If any of our readers know any thing about the "varmint" which has been paying a visit to Mr. Rogers we shall thank them for a short history of him, as we have not yet made his acquaintance. We shall be glad to hear from Mr. R. again—but—his name is not on our subscription list! Will he place it there!

ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF CHIMNEYS.

In constructing chimneys, the builder should bear in mind that the facility for the passage of air through a funnel depends entirely upon the labor in its formation. The more direct the funnel the more regular in its size, and the smoother its surface, the more perfect will be the draft. The greater length you add to a funnel by giving it abrupt turns or "breaks" (as they are sometimes called,) the less useful it is for the purpose for which it is designed. A funnel 8 inches square, made perfectly smooth and even in its inner surface, and perpendicular in its direction, will conduct a stronger draft than one twice the size which is irregular in its form, with a rough surface, and having abrupt turns. A separate funnel, for each room should be carried all the way up the chimney; and if this is not done the area of each funnel should equal in measurement that of all the flues leading into it. A chimney in a conical form, with a gradual increase of area as it is carried up, will be much more regular in its draft at the apex than that of the ordinary construction, where the outlet of the funnel is smaller than the bottom or inlet. The most prominent difficulty in the draft of chimneys is occasioned by discrepancies in the formation of the funnel.—[*Fisk's Fuel Almanac.*]

A NEW MODE OF PREPARING CREAM FOR CHURNING.—When cream is being collected for churning, as soon as the first skimming is put into the vessel, add at the rate of half a pint of vinegar to each gallon of cream. Suppose you churn six gallons at a time, and collect only one gallon per day, put six half pints of vinegar in the vessel at once, to the first day's cream, and so in proportion to the other quantity. Let all the vinegar for the whole churning be added to the first collected cream. I had this from a friend who supplies a large quantity of butter of the best quality to one of the crack shops at the west end. [Has any body ever tried this in Canada?]

[London Gardeners' Chronicle.]

A LIFE PRESERVER FOR THRASHERS.—Take a piece of the finest sponge, large enough to cover the mouth and nostrils, hollow it out so as to fit closely; tack a tape string around the outside, long enough for the ends to tie over the top of the head; soak the sponge in soft water and squeeze the water out with the hand, then when ready to commence work tie it on tightly and evenly so as to cover the mouth and nostrils completely. You can breathe and talk through the sponge almost as freely as without it—(though it will trouble those who use the "filthy weed,") and you can thrash where the dust from the machine rises like a dense fog around the head, and the lungs will be as free from harm as if you were hoeing corn. I have thrashed with a machine for the past four years, and always suffered much from the dust inhaled into the lungs, until last year, when I tried the sponge; and I can truly say it has been a life-preserver to me.—[*Ohio Cultivator.*]

NEW SOLDER.—Dissolve zinc in muriatic acid to saturation; add pulverized sal-ammoniac in this solution, and after boiling it for a short time it is ready for use. In using this compound, no cleaning of metal is necessary, however oxidized, and oil and other materials are dispensed with. It is only necessary to apply the compound, with a piece of sponge upon a stick or feather, to the part which is to be soldered, in place of the article now used, to prevent oxidation, and facilitate the flow of the solder. Such is the efficacy, that if two pieces of bar, possessing considerable surface, be wet with this solution and

pressed together, upon the application of the soldering tool, the solder will at once flow between the plates throughout.—[*Scientific American.*]

POISONOUS PROPERTIES OF BRINE.—It is a fact worthy of notice, that the brine in which pork or bacon has been pickled, is poisonous to pigs. Several cases are on record in which these animals have died in consequence of a small quantity of brine having been mingled with the wash, under the mistaken impression that it would answer the same purpose and be equally as beneficial as in the admixture of a small quantity of salt.—[*The Pig, by Youatt.*]

BITE OF A MAD DOG.

Messrs. Editors: In the year 1835 a mad dog came among my cattle and bit two of them. I pursued and killed the dog, and on my return home met a neighbor who was in pursuit of said dog. He informed me how to prevent injury to my cattle—stating that some years before a mad dog had bitten several hogs for him, and he caught some of them and with a knife made an incision in the wound, and then took as much pulverized corrosive sublimate as will lie on the point of a pen-knife and inserted into the wound. All the hogs thus operated upon lived and did well, while the others run mad and died. This induced me to try the experiment, which I did with success; one of them was bitten in the nostril where I thought there was no cure but the application had the desired effect. They were young cattle, but grew finely and were always as healthy as any others in my herd.

One of my neighbors had a cow bitten in the tail by the same dog; he applied some of the corrosive sublimate to the wound, but did not cut so as to let blood freely and in about three weeks she was taken with the hydrophobia and died. W. STOWELL.

Newark, Ill., May 1847.

[*Prairie Farmer*]

A SIMPLE CURE FOR DYSENTERY, WHICH HAS NEVER FAILED.—As the season to which this complaint is most prevalent, is near at hand, we insert the following, cut from the Caledonia Mercury, a standard Edinburgh paper, which does not publish trumpery. The plan is simple and easy enough of trial:

"Take some butter off the churn, immediately after being churned, just as it is, without be salted or washed; clarify it over the fire like honey. Skim off all the milky particles when melted over a clear fire. Let the patient (if an adult) take two table spoonfuls of the clarified remainder, twice or thrice within the day. This has never failed to effect a cure, and in many cases it has been almost instantaneous. It has already succeeded in nearly one hundred trials, and to many who were supposed to have been at the point of death, it has given instant relief."

ATMOSPHERE NEAR THE SEA.—From the various experiments made by the savans of Europe, it has been ascertained that the atmosphere over the sea contains less carbonic acid than over the land; that when the sea is rough; and especially when the sea is violent, particles of sea-water, in a state of great tenacity, float in the air, particularly on the coast where the waves break; and that these particles are carried to a greater or less distance, according to the violence of the wind, and to the degree to which the sea is agitated. Hence the influence of the sea-air upon the soil and vegetation in places near the sea.

APOPLEXY CURED WITHOUT A LANCET OR A DOCTOR.—A few days ago a man was taken suddenly with apoplexy, at the police office, at Jefferson market, his face being as blue as indigo, from the swelling of the blood vessels. One of the officers, who had read in Dr. Turner's "Triumphs of Young Physic" the new and scientific treatment of that disease, got some cold water and poured cupful by cupful upon the patient's head. In a few minutes the senseless man came to, and in a quarter of an hour he walked off home well.—[*N. Y. Tribune.*]

West Gwillimbury, August 9th, 1847.

Messrs. Editors.—Please to let a rural observer know that the answer to his question in your paper of July 31st, is 2 feet 3 inches, the length of the stroke in each of the barrels. Please tell him the next time he has a question printed to give a puzzler.

Yours truly,

A WEST GWILLIMBURY FARMER.