

By means of these artificial blocks, buildings may easily be carried on in places where materials for the purpose are scarce. All that is required is simply to convey a quantity of magnesia and chloride of magnesium to the spot, if there be none to be had there, and then to mix them up with sand, pebbles, or any other matter of the kind close at hand; blocks can be made of any shape, and imitating hewn stone. This magnesium cement may be obtained at a very low cost, especially if the magnesia be extracted from the mother ley of salt works, either by M. Balard's process, whereby magnesia and hydrochloric acid are obtained at the same time, or else by decomposing the ley, which always contains a large proportion of chloride of magnesium, by means of quick lime, which by double decomposition yields magnesia and chloride of lime containing a certain quantity of chloride of magnesium, and which, with the addition of various other cheap substances may be used for whitewashing.

Hints to Horsekeepers.

Never feed grain or give water to a horse when warm from exercise. Sweat is not always a sign of warmth; place the hand on the chest for a test.

Water given after a meal is safer than to give it before.

Never drive fast or draw them hard immediately after giving food or drink.

Never drive faster than a walk with heavy loads.

Do not let horses stand long in the stable at any time in the year, without exercising.

Feed regularly, and in quality according to the appetite of the animal, and the labor it performs.

Do not drive or work long in storms.

Do not let the horses stand in the stable cased in boots of dried mud, and coats of matted hair.

Groom them.

At all times in the year make your horses comfortable when tied in the stable. They cannot help themselves there.

Teach your horses to trust and have confidence in you rather than fear.

Canada Provision Trade with England.

At a recent meeting of the *Food Committee* at the Society of Arts, Mr. Grainger said:—"The importation of provisions from Canada was considerable, consisting of beef, pork, cheese, and a large quantity of butter. The resources of that country were rapidly extending. There was great hope from the development of the provision trade in Canada, as the articles were of a character which suited our markets. Self-interest, however, would lead them to produce an article that would suit our markets as nearly as possible, and there was every encouragement to improve the quality."

The Uses of Walking.

Walking for young and active people is by far the best exercise; riding is good for the elderly, middle-aged and invalids. The abuse of these exercises consists in taking them when the system is exhausted, more or less, by previous fasting or by mental labors. Some persons injudiciously attempt a long walk before breakfast, under the belief that it is conducive to health. Others will get up early

to work three hours at some abstruse mental toil. The effect in both instances is the same; it subtracts from the power of exertion in the afterpart of the day. A short saunter or some light reading before this meal is the best indulgence of the kind; otherwise the waste occasioned by labor must be supplied by nourishment, and the breakfast will necessarily become a heavy meal, and the whole morning's comfort sacrificed by a weight at the chest from imperfect digestion of food. These observations apply especially to elderly persons, who are prone to flatter themselves into the persuasion that they can use their mental or bodily powers in age as in youth.

Caen Stone.

The *Scientific American* says, the Caen Stone of France has a rival in the stratified limestone which underlies the whole of the high prairie land of Kansas. A correspondent describes it as white, cream colored, pink, yellow, and red, lying horizontally, and requiring no other quarrying than the use of a crowbar to lift it in blocks from its bed. So easily worked is it that he has seen it hewn into shape with a common wood-axe, and mortised with a carpenter's chisel as easily and quickly as a pine beam; he has also seen it planed with a jack plane, sawed with a scroll saw into brackets and ornamental door and window caps, and cut with a buzz saw into blocks for street pavements or bricks of any size. The material hardens on exposure to air, and becomes as impene- trable as Tennessee marble.

Elementary Education in France.

One third of all the inhabitants of the French Empire are unable to either read or write. This unwelcome fact has just been forced upon the attention of the enlightened among that nation by the publication of two maps entitled "France that can read, and France that can write." In the latter, the districts in which persons married in 1866 who could not sign the registry—in a proportion varying from thirty to seventy per cent—are marked in black. Fifty-five departments thus denounced comprise all the south, center, and west of France. The averages of the illiterate married in 1866 is thirty-three per cent. As regards primary instruction France accordingly is in the lowest rank of the European powers.

Discovery of a Sulphur Spring.

In digging a well on his farm, a few miles above this town, Mr. J. J. Wright, of the Huron Hotel, has discovered a sulphur spring, the water of which is pronounced to be very similar to that from the famous St. Catharine's mineral springs. Steps are being taken to have the water properly analyzed. If it proves to be what is expected, it will be a discovery of very great importance to Goderich, as we have every other requisite for a great watering place. Goderich seems to be favoured by nature even beyond what was ever anticipated.—*Huron Signal*.

England uses 850 million postage stamps annually, France 450 and the United States 350 millions.