

the ash-tree, one end of which she puts into the fire, and, while it is burning, receive into a spoon the sap which oozes from the other end: this she gives to the child to be mingled with its first food. It is supposed to impart wonderful virtue. In King's County, Ireland, near Kenehy Church, is a famous ash, the trunk of which is now 21 feet 10 inches in circumference. When a funeral of one of the peasantry passes by this tree, the procession pauses, the body is laid down for a few minutes, while all offer a few words of prayer. Then each person casts a stone to increase the heap which has been accumulated over its roots. This is imagined to benefit both the dead and the living. There is an ancient saying, that "a serpent would rather creep into the fire than over a twig of an ash-tree." Cowley, enumerating various prodigies, says :

"On the wild ash's top, with bats and owls,
With, all night, ominous and baleful fowls,
Sate brooding, while the screeching of the doves
Profaned and violated all the groves."

It is surprising how many of such follies will creep into men's minds.—*The Druggist*.

AN AGRICULTURAL PASTIME.—The season has begun for holding jubilees of the Sparrow Clubs, and scarcely a week now will pass on which we shall not be called upon to record the celebration of one or more of these village festivals. We shall be requested to chronicle how Farmer Giles took the chair; Labourer Hodge, the vice; how mine host of the "Toad under the Harrow" supplied a supper in his usual splendid style, utterly regardless of cost; how old Job Lynxeye, tenant farmer, and young Abel Anvil, blacksmith, produced so many thousand heads of small birds, and triumphantly carried off certain sweepstakes provided for the victors; how the night was spent in mellifluous harmony; how the patriotic aviscides passed a most agreeable night, and how they did "not go home till morning." Now, we have serious doubts whether these bird slayers do not do a great deal more harm than good; and we really should be greatly obliged if some experienced person, capable of forming a correct opinion on the matter, would direct his attention to it, and favour us with the result of his inquiries. Our own decided impression is, that it is mischievous folly to destroy indiscriminately all small birds; but we should much like to be favoured with really sound practical information on the subject. Hither'o, our French neighbours have been the most inveterate of bird destroyers. The result has been so enormous an increase of those reptiles and insects which prey upon the crops of grain and other vegetable food, and so deficient a harvest, that we should not be surprised if the French Government were to resort to stringent measures to prevent this wholesale slaughter. Let us state two facts for the con-

sideration of our rural readers, and there we leave the matter for the present. The chaffer deposits from 70 to 100 eggs, which are transformed into white grubs, which live the roots of our most valuable vegetables. The vil lays from 70 to 90 eggs, which, laid many grains of corn, become larvae, and creep up the corn. Now swallows, hedge-sparrows, and other small birds live principally upon caterpillars, and other insects and animals which prey on and destroy the products of agriculture. Ten swallows were recently discovered in their stomachs were found the remains of 5,482 insects, which must have been the result of a few hours' feeding. We trust our farmers will be induced to think of the matter, and will not join in unreasoning attacks against sparrows and water-wagtails, on the occasion of the supper at the "Toad under the Harrow" and the conviviality of the guests on the dead bodies of larks, wrens, finches, white-throats, and others of the feathered songsters, notes, for purity, richness, melody, and so on, we will back against the boisterous guests of the bacchanals who ever assembled at the "Toad under the Harrow" aforesaid. *Surrey Times*.

THE LONDON SHOEBLACKS AND THEIR REVENUE.—The shoeblacks who stud the broad London, in their cheerful jersey's, yellow and blue, have shown the possibility of getting out well. Nine years have elapsed since the branch of labour was introduced; and it is said, have earned about £12,000 in united earnings for the last financial year ended to £4,548, representing the black polishers of no less than 1,119,330 pairs of shoes.

A SHYING HORSE.—Nine out of ten horsemen start in their seat whenever a horse shies, and then the horse is either by the spur driven up to the object. The horses look at any singular object with nervousness, for they expect a thrashing at the same moment. The rider should not punish himself, nor notice it in his horse; and punish him.

A VALUABLE DISCOVERY.—Professor Turner says, that through a succession of experiments upon himself, his children, his horses, and other cases, he has discovered that Cod-liver-oil is a certain and speedy remedy for scrofulous taints, and all kinds of local diseases, rheumatism, pains in the side, shoulder, and joints, croup, sore throat, bruises, cuts, and lacerations of all sorts on animals. He mentions several cases in his family, where the application of this oil has effected so instant and permanent relief, and so beneficial effects, he has thought it worth while to make the discovery known to the public.