

that a very slight strain sufficed to pull it asunder, and linen so treated presented all the characteristics of damage shown by that which had passed through the hands of the laundress.

LEECHES.—According to *Chambers' Journal* there are used in Paris some twelve million leeches annually. The demand in France will equal at least five times this number, and these figures will give some idea of the enormous "consumption" throughout the world. Most of these leeches are obtained from leech farms, or reservoirs, which are often of great extent. In the department of La Gironde alone, about ten thousand acres of land have been devoted to this purpose; and but for this industry most of this land would be worthless, or worse than worthless, on account of its swampy and fever-breeding character. The reservoirs are so arranged that they can be inundated or drained at will. During the cold season the leech remains underground, but the first rays of the spring sun bring him out, and then a troop of horses are driven into the breeding-grounds. The leeches attach themselves to the legs of the animals and then gorge themselves. The same troop of horses remain on duty five or six hours, and about ten horses are allotted to each acre. They are then taken to pasture, where they remain eight or ten days to recruit their strength, when they are again made to furnish food for the leeches. This is continued eight or ten times during the three months of spring. The horses do not suffer as much as might be imagined, and often thrive under this treatment. Old horses, whose lives have hitherto been a succession of hard knocks, hard work and fastings, here find a relief from their burdens and enjoy a comparative paradise, which is often continued to them for years. The leeches are taken, in August, by fishers, protected by high boots. They enter the water in line, and advance through the entire bed, beating the water with sticks, and thus arousing the leeches. The larger ones are carefully lifted out and put in bags, with which each person is provided. A farm of four hundred acres will furnish several million leeches yearly, and the profits of the industry are tolerably remunerative, as the cost of maintenance and collection is not great.

THE QUININE FLOWER.—Dr. J. D. Palmer, of Monticello, Florida, contributes to the October number of the *Am. Jour. Pharm.* a paper on the quinine flower, a substitute for quinine, which has been used with great success ever since the earlier period of the civil war. The quinine flower is an annual, from twelve to eighteen inches high, has an erect green stem, linear leaves about one-half to one