

in the following manner. When ripe, let them be prepared by stewing as for the table, and to the liking; put them in small jars (1 quart) with covers. Over the top put a piece of linen or cotton cloth, which well cover, and press the cover on; then pour into the cavity melted mutton tallow, and keep them in a cool and dry place in the cellar until required for use. They need only to be warmed to serve them for the table. I use small jars for the reason, that when exposed to the air they soon ferment."—[Albany Cult.

Miscellaneous.

Assaying Metals.

The assaying is the most curious and scientific of all the business in the mint. The melters take the gold dust, melt it, and cast it into a bar, when it is weighed accurately, and a piece is cut off for the assayer. He takes it, melts it with twice its weight of silver, and several times its weight of lead. It is melted in small cups made of bone ashes which absorb all the lead; a large part of the silver is extracted by another process, and the sample is then rolled out to a thin shaving, coiled up, and put in a sort of a glass vial called matrasses, with some nitric acid. The matrasses are put in a furnace, and the acid is boiled some time, poured off, a new supply put in and boiled again. This is done several times, till the acid has extracted all the silver and other mineral substances leaving the sample pure gold. The sample is then weighed, and by the difference between the weight before assaying and after, the true value is found. All the silver over and above five pennyweights for each lot, is paid for by the mint as its true value. The gold, after it has been assayed, is melted, refined, and being mixed with its due proportion of alloy is drawn into long strips (not unlike an iron hoop for a cask) the round pieces cut out with a sort of punch, each piece weighed and brought to right size and put into a stamping press, whence it comes forth a perfect coin.—Scientific American.

Utility of Nettles.

The Medical Times says it is a singular fact that steel dipped in the juice of the nettle becomes flexible. Dr. Thornton, who has made the medical properties of our wild

plants his peculiar study, states that lint dipped in nettle juice and put up the nostril, has been known to stay the bleeding of the nose, when all other remedies have failed—and adds that fourteen or fifteen of the seeds ground into powder, and taken daily, will cure the swellings in the neck known by the name of goitre, without in any way injuring the general habit.—[Scientific American.

Maternal Influence.

The mental fountain is unsealed to the eye of a mother, ere it has chosen a channel, or breathed a murmur. She may tinge with sweetness or bitterness the whole stream of future life. Other teachers have to contend with unhappy combinations of ideas. She rules the simple and plastic elements. Of her, we may say, she "hath entered into the magazine of snow, and seen the treasure of the hail." In the moral field she is a privileged labourer. Ere the dews of morning begin to exhale she is there. She breaks up a soil which the root of error, and the thorns of prejudice have not pre-occupied. She plants germs whose fruit is for eternity. While she feels that she is required to educate not merely a virtuous member of society, but a Christian, an angel, a servant of the Most High, how does so holy a charge quicken piety, by teaching the heart its own insufficiency!

"The soul of her infant is uncovered before her. She knows that the images which she enshrines in that unoccupied sanctuary must rise before her at the bar of doom.—Trembling at such tremendous responsibility she teaches the little being, whose life is her dearest care, of the God who made him; and who can measure the extent of a mother's lessons of piety, unless his hand might remove the veil which devides terrestrial things?

"When I was a little child, said a good man, my mother used to bid me kneel beside her, and place her hand upon my head while she prayed. Ere I was old enough to know her worth, she died, and I was left too much to my own guidance. Like others, I was inclined to evil passions, but often felt myself checked, and as it were, drawn back, by a soft hand upon my head. When a young man I travelled in foreign lands and was exposed to many temptations. But when I would have yielded, that same hand was upon