

LONG VITALITY OF SEEDS.

So completely is the ground impregnated with seeds, that if earth is brought to the surface from the lowest depth at which it is found, some vegetable matter will spring from it. I have always considered this fact as one of the many surprising instances of the power and bounty of Almighty God, who has thus literally filled the earth with his goodness, by storing up a deposit of useful seeds in its depths, where they must have lain through a succession of ages, only requiring the energies of man to bring them into action. In boring for water lately, at a spot near Kingston-on-Thames, some earth was brought up from a depth of 360 feet; this earth was carefully covered over to prevent any other seeds being deposited upon it, and it was soon covered with vegetation. If quick lime be put upon land which from time immemorial has produced nothing but heather, the heather will be killed, and white clover will spring up in its place. A curious fact was communicated to me respecting some land which surrounds an old castle, formerly belonging to the Regent Murray, near Moffat. On removing the peat, which is about six or eight inches in thickness, a stratum of soil appears, which is supposed to have been a cultivated garden in the time of the regent, and from which a variety of flowers and plants spring, some of them little known even at this time in Scotland.—*Jesse's Gleanings of Natural History.*

THE STRAWBERRY.—A fruit so very useful and delightful as the strawberry deserves a better name, though the old one is now so identified with its beauty that it would be a pity to get rid of it. Nobody thinks of *straw* when uttering the word strawberry, but only of color, fragrance, and sweetness. The Italian name is *Fragola*, fragrant. The English one originated in the custom of putting straw between the fruit and the ground, to keep it dry and clean; or, perhaps, as Mr. Philips thinks, from a still older practice among children, of threading the wild berries upon straws of grass. He says that this is still a custom in parts of England where they abound, and that so many "straws of berries" are sold for a penny.

FORCE OF SAP.

Braddock, a British Physiologist, cut off the stem of a grape, five years old, and covered the wound with a piece of bladder, secured by cement and twine. The bladder, although at first drawn very close to the top of the shoot, soon began to stretch, and to raise a ball over the wound, feeling as hard as a cricket ball. In about 48 hours afterwards the force of the sap burst the bladder.

MULCHING GOOSEBERRIES.

The English gooseberry has always hitherto mildewed here: and I have been familiar with bushes of the best sorts for many years, without ever being able to gather any perfect fruit.

I have lately "mulched some bushes" which

heretofore had borne this worthless fruit. I covered the surface of the ground under them a foot deep with wet half rotten straw, extending this mulching as far as the branches grew

Imagine my delight at finding the gooseberries so mulched, ripening off finely, the fruit twice as large as I have ever seen it before, and quite fair and free from mildew.—*Horticulturist.*

SETTING FENCE POSTS.—Mr. Benjamin Willard, of Lancashire, Mass., gives the following, which we copy from the last New England Farmer, as his method of setting fence posts:—"I have for some time been satisfied of the economy of setting posts for permanent fence in lime mortar. I have proved the plan and have given it my sanction, for permanent record in your paper.—Air-slaked or refuse lime (at ten cents per bushel) answers; and the cost except labour: on it is not over one cent per post. We dig the holes with a spade, and have two semi-circular pieces of sheet iron to put down round the post, and after filling inside with mortar and outside with earth, draw up these pieces, and the work is done for many years. It dries hard as stone, and remains in statu quo. I set the top end down."

VALUABLE RECIPE.—To prevent the borer from injuring apple trees. The borer lays its eggs just within the bark, a few inches from the ground, in June. Two pounds of potash to one bucket of water—wash the tree in June, and the liquid destroys the eggs, and will prevent the recurrence of the evil the next year. This is the common practice of the orchardists in Massachusetts, and is successful.—*Portsmouth Journal.*

RHUBARB.

The use of Rhubarb Stalks as an article of food is yearly on the increase; and, we have no doubt that, at no distant date, it will be an important article in the poor man's bill of fare. We have for many years past endeavoured to get those who had small gardens to grow a root of the Victoria Rhubarb in a corner of their ground, and several grew it, only for the purpose of obtaining a prize for the best grown stalks; they are now beginning to try the cooking of it, and like it very well; but, cheap as the sugar is, they grudge the sugar that is required to sweeten it to their taste; but many are not aware that by using a small quantity of what is called baking soda—carbonate of soda—one half the quantity of sugar will suffice. [But we eat Rhubarb, not only on account of its agreeable taste of the vegetable acids which it contains, but also on account of the favourable effects of those acids on the animal economy when taken into the system as a portion of the food: it may be doubted whether we can accomplish the same objects by eating salts (oxalate and malate) of soda.—*Ag. Ed.*] When the soda is introduced after the rhubarb is boiled, a strong effervescence takes place, and the sourness of the rhubarb is greatly destroyed. Those in towns who buy it by the pound, often destroy a third of their purchase in the way in which they remove the skin from the stalk; it has now been ascertained by good judges, that there is no need whatever in removing the skin at all, when the stalks are in a proper state for