

the same varieties planted in the other borders, although they all received the like treatment in every other respect.

We commend this interesting question to the attention of all grape growers, and shall be happy to receive any observations tending to its solution. It is one of great practical importance not only to those who grow grapes under glass, but to those who plant in the open air for market or wine. If soils formed from rocks of a certain formation prove to yield grapes of superior size in bunch and berry from all other soils, then he who selects that soil for his vineyard, other things being equal, will have the advantage over those who plant on a soil not so well adapted to the production of fine grapes. We are yet to grow our own grapes varieties sufficiently hardy and early are being produced. Already we have the Concord and Delaware, and other sorts are putting in a claim for earliness, as the Isabella and the Adirondac, so that in a short time we shall hope to see our markets well supplied with perfectly ripe grapes of Canadian growth. The best methods of growing the vines are receiving considerable attention, and while there will be some difference of opinion among cultivators, yet the full discussion of the subject will help the thinking planter to adopt the most suitable method. We take pleasure in calling attention to several articles on this subject by an esteemed correspondent; and if any one thinks he has a better plan of pruning and training (and doubtless there are many who think so), we should be happy to place it before our readers. Meanwhile, we will not forget that difference in soil, other than its mere mechanical texture, may have an important influence on the production of fine grapes, and that it may be well when planting vines to have reference to the geological character of the rock from which it is mainly formed, if we would attain the highest degree of excellence in grape growing. This knowledge can be obtained only by actual experiment here, and a comparison of results obtained on soil of different geological character will alone settle the question.

Preserving Cabbage in Winter.

I HAVE had considerable experience in this matter of keeping cabbages in the best condition possible over winter, as my business of seed raising has rendered this necessary; and the subject would yield quite a chapter; but at present let this suffice. Select a warm location, having a southerly exposure if practicable, under a cliff, where the snow will be likely to bank in winter; the soil should be light in character, and the ground well drained. Dig a trench six or eight inches in depth, and of width sufficient to take three rows of cabbages. Having stripped all but the last layer of leaves surrounding the heads, stand them in the trench in the same position in which they grew, crowding them as closely together as possible; then begin a second trench, or rather continue extending the width of the one already dug, throwing the earth taken from it directly on top of the cabbages already planted, and thus proceed with the whole lot to be buried. Do not fill up the open interval which remains between the bottom of the cabbages and the bottom of the trench; the air is a better non-conductor of heat than the earth, and hence the plants will be better protected with the space open. For this same reason loosely-headed cabbages require less covering than those more completely headed in; the air between the leaves protecting the former. Having completed the planting, tread the earth close against the last row planted, which will tend to keep them upright. Dig a small trench around the bed, for draining purposes, throwing the earth on the edges of the bed, as these are most liable to wash, and hence require extra protection. Have a lot of waste litter or sea-weed at hand, sufficient, if litter, to cover the bed four or five inches in depth, if sea-weed, three inches will be sufficient. After the ground is frozen about through to the cabbages, scatter over the litter or sea-weed as may be. If one has plenty of litter about, a foot of this will be a sufficient protection without the previous covering with soil. The Savoy varieties require less protection than the Drumhead. Six or eight inches of earth will protect as effectually as four feet, as I have proved by experiment.—*J. J. H. Gregory.*

The Household.



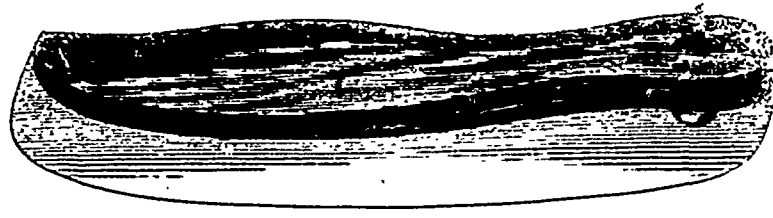
RECREATION is one of the demands of our nature, to which even the industrious farmer ought to pay respect, and every household should have its appointed and approved amusements for the young people. It is said that the statistics of lunatic asylums show a large proportion of inmates as having come from the agricultural class, and the celebrated Dr. Hall, of New York, accounts for it partly from the fact that farmers and their families are so little diverted from the dull routine of every day duty. Their subjects of thought are too few,—life is not sufficiently varied. There is too much monotonous plodding; there is a sameness and a tameness about their mode of living which is unfavourable to mental vigour and integrity. Well-chosen recreation of some sort cannot but be beneficial to all classes of persons, whether they dwell in the country or in the town.

As a healthful, exhilarating, out-door pastime, skating is unrivalled. Its present popularity is a good sign of the times. Like everything else, it is capable of abuse, but indulged within proper bounds, it has very much to commend it. The introduction of artificial skating places, usually called "rinks," has done a great deal to foster a taste for this winter amusement. By their means the dangers of the ice have been reduced to a few bruises or scratches, and anxious parents are enabled to breathe freely when their sons and daughters venture upon the slippery pavement. With a little energy, every town and village in the land might have its rink or rinks. In most rural neighbourhoods, too, provision might be made for enjoying in perfect safety this exciting sport. Many of our farmers have a nice creek or spring flowing past their dwellings, and the young people, with a little direction from an older head, might easily form a family rink. Or a few neighbours, one of whom had such a stream, could unite and get up a skating place which should be common to all. A small rink that would afford immense diversion to the little folks could be made in the door-yard by the help of the well and cistern, if these were capacious and plentifully supplied with water. The boys, and girls even, would work with a will in preparing with spade and bucket such a skating place. Those numerous and melancholy accidents that have re-

sulted from venturing on unsafe ice formed over deep water, should be a warning to everybody. It is much easier to get through ice than to get out again; the edges break away; the feet, as you cling to the ice, rise up underneath; and the risk of slipping in and sinking never to rise again is very great. Swimming is of little avail; you cannot do much at that with skates on; the iron is heavy and weighs the feet down, and what is worse, it cuts the water instead of presenting the resistance of a flat foot against it. A valuable secret for anybody in danger on weak ice is to lie down and crawl away. A man may wriggle like a snake to the shore over ice that would break with the perpendicular weight of a child. Two maxims deserve universal regard. 1. *Keep off doubtful ice.* 2. *Lie down and crawl when there is danger of breaking in.*

In learning to skate, confidence and resolution are the main things. The ice is no place for the nervous, timid, and irresolute. If you think you are going to fall, you will most certainly do so. Resolve to stand and go, and though awkward and scrambling at first, an encouraging degree of improvement will soon reward you. The first attempt of the beginner is to progress on the ice, as on land, by walking. A sort of slide is then attempted. So soon as the learner is a little accustomed to the novel position, the ordinary run, or inside edge forward, as it is called, should be attempted. It is done as follows: Standing with the right heel in the hollow of the left foot, so that the two feet form right angles with each other; the weight of the body is thrown on the right foot, and the inside edge of the left foot is pressed into the ice. A push given by the left foot, which is immediately taken off the ice and brought parallel with the other, sends the skater forward a short distance. Next the left foot should be placed in advance, and a push given by the right foot in a similar manner. Alternating thus from one to the other, the learner will gradually be able to get along, although at first slowly, clumsily, and with hands flying about in an awkward sort of way. By-and-bye however, ease, firmness, command of balance, and considerable speed will be attained. The learner will then be prepared to attempt skating backwards, and various forms of figure and fancy skating. About these, we have not space to say anything just now.

Skates are now made in a great variety of patterns. Of course, taste will have much to do in the selection of a pair. It is well, however, to avoid fluted skates, i.e., those which have a groove running along the bottom. They give a better hold of the ice at first, and are therefore preferred by learners, but they are apt to become blunt at the edges, and to cut up the ice into little shavings, which collect in the groove and trip up the skater. Square heels are also regarded as objectionable, from their cutting up the ice, and being unsuitable for some kinds of figure skating. Ornamental projections at the toe are also undesirable. We give below an engraving of the best and most serviceable style of skate now in use. It is copied from the illustrated catalogue of Joseph Robinson & Co., of the Sheffield House in this city. They keep a large and varied assortment of skates, but especially recommend the one we have had engraved. The most skilful skaters of both sexes give it the preference over all other patterns.



SCARCITY OF POULTRY.—The *Prairie Farmer* complains that poultry are scarce and high-priced in the Chicago market, and thinks there is a real scarcity of poultry throughout the West. This state of things is attributed by our contemporary, partly to the extreme cold weather last winter, which destroyed many turkeys and fowls that were not well cared for; and partly to the high price eggs have borne for some time past, in consequence of which they have