

HINTS TO FARMERS.

Go over the farm as soon as the snow melts in the spring. You will see many things that need to be done. Make a note of them and prepare to do them at the right time.

THE DRAINING grass-land is a grand means of ameliorating the effect of drouth. Spread the manure as early as possible in the spring, and if you have a Thomas harrow use it freely to break up the manure.

THE principal work of the month in this latitude, is to get ready for sowing and planting in April and May. See that the seed is ready, the implements in order, the harness well oiled and repaired, and the horses in good condition for hard work.

A FRENCH farmer has discovered that the use of tan is an efficient preventive against potato disease. For three years he has introduced a small quantity of the residue of the bark used in tanning into each hole on planting his potato crop, and each time he has been completely successful in preserving his fields free from the annoying disease.

UNDERDRAINING on all wet soils is indispensable to real success in farming. A well-drained and well-worked heavy soil is rarely affected by drouth. Every enterprising farmer will do more or less draining every spring. If he once commences to underdrain, and does the work well, he will not be likely to stop until he has made all his land dry.

YOUNG stock should be fed liberally. They are growing, and can not be kept healthy unless they have enough nutriment to provide for their natural growth. A bushel of chaffed straw or stalks, a bushel of chaffed clover hay, half a peck of fine bran, and a quart of corn-meal, mixed together, form a cheap and excellent food. Let them have all they will eat of it. If they leave any, give it to the older cattle.

SHEEP.—Clean out the sheds or pens. Nothing is so bad for sheep as to compel them to stand or lie upon fermenting manure. They will do better in the mud even than on fermenting manure. Both, however, are bad. Give a little fresh straw for bedding every day—just enough to keep the sheep dry and comfortable. At this season the flock-master needs to exercise all his vigilance, energy, and best judgment. In our changeable climate it is no easy matter to carry a large flock of sheep through this month and the next. A great point is to have several apartments and to grade and feed the sheep according to their condition. But avoid sudden changes in feeding. For brooding stock, clover, hay, bran, and roots are better than grain.

FAMILY MATTERS.

ONE of the most important points in window gardening is watering. There should be plenty of cracks in the bottom of the pot so as to let the water pass off rapidly, and thus ensure perfect drainage. This is one of the few rules without any exception, as there is not a single plant suitable for window culture which will flourish if the water be allowed to stagnate in the bottom of the pot.

EXCELLENT WHITEWASH.—As the house cleaning season is approaching, it may not be amiss to say a few words in regard to whitewashing. There are many recipes published, but we believe the following to be the best. Sixteen pounds of Paris white, half a pound of white transparent glue, prepared as follows: The glue is covered with cold water at night, and in the morning is carefully heated—without scorching—until dissolved. The Paris white is stirred in with hot water to give it the proper milky consistency for applying to walls; the mixture is then applied with a brush like the common-lime whitewash. Except on very dark and smoky walls, a single coat is sufficient. It is nearly equal in brilliancy to "size white," a far more expensive article.

CANNING AND BOTTLING FRUIT.—Every intelligent housewife who has had any experience in bottling and canning fruit, understands the superiority of glass vessels for such purposes over either tin or stone ware. It is true, glass jars are a little more expensive and somewhat liable to crack when filling in the warm fruit. On the other hand fruit in the glass jars is at all times in a condition for inspection, so that the slightest fermentation, which sometimes occurs, may at once be detected; and, as for the cracking, that has been overcome. Glass is more easily washed and cleaned than either stone or tin ware, and proof against corrosion—a very serious objection to tin. A lady correspondent of *Gardener's Monthly* gives the following as her experience and views on the use of glass and tin vessels:

It used to be customary and is for that matter, customary yet, to put the glasses in cold water, and gradually heat them up to near boiling point, when the heated fruit is put in and closed up. But with all my greatest care glasses often broke. Now I get a wet towel, double it four or five times, and set the jar on this while pouring in the warmed fruit. I adopted this plan all the last season, and did not have one glass to crack. I saw the hint in some newspaper, but cannot recollect where. It seemed so unreasonable to cool them, that I was at first afraid to try it, and very reluctantly experimented with two. As they succeeded well, I did all that way last

summer, and shall continue to do them in the same way. This objection against my favorite glasses is thus entirely removed, and there remains nothing in favor of tin but the first cost. I use many different patterns of jars, all of which have elastic bands around the stoppers, some tightened by screwing, others by a clasp. All this is soon done, and the bottles soon opened when wanted, which is an advantage over tin, for which oment has to be prepared, and which takes time to open—and then the superior cleanliness of the process in the jars, is I think much in their favor over tin.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A SCHOOL-BOY in Virilin, Illinois, who was "kept in" during recess, has sued the school-master for false imprisonment.

MR. LINNICH, the oculist, has invented a school-desk, intended to obviate the injuries to the sight induced by children sitting in a lopsided position to write.

CURIOUS OBJECTS DISCOVERED IN ROME.—Amongst a variety of curious objects lately found in the excavations of Rome are portions of a pot found at the Esquiline, pieces of woollen stuff blackened by lime, and having the appearance of contact with fire, but still preserving their elasticity, and the remnants of a straw mat much discolored. These objects were found in a large room in which a public wash-house is supposed to have been established.

JOHN WALTER, Esq., of the *London Times*, recently had all his literary and mechanical staff—over three hundred in number—at his country-seat, Bearwood Hall, and gave them a grand banquet. The only newspaper man in this country who does the same kind of thing, though on a larger scale, is Mr. Childs, of the *Philadelphia Ledger*. He takes his entire force once a year to Cape May, or some other cape, gives them a superb entertainment, makes many presents, and keeps the lives of his principal editors, cashiers, etc., well insured for the benefit of their families.

A SMALL boy skating beside the railroad track between Sharon and Lawrence, Wis., recently discovered a broken rail, and at the same time saw a freight train coming down the heavy grade towards the break in the track. He comprehended the situation at once, and started toward the approaching train, swinging his scarf wildly in the air. The engine was reversed and the train stopped in safety. The boy waited only long enough to be supplied with a red flag, when he went up the track at a lively pace to stop an extra train which was following the freight train. Accomplishing his second undertaking, the boy disappeared without leaving his name or any clue to his whereabouts.

A GENTLEMAN applied to a London Police magistrate, the other day, for a summons against his housekeeper for beating him about the head with a rump-steak. The magistrate asked the gentleman whether she knocked him about with the steak to make the head tender or the steak. Applicant said he did not know, but he knew that his head was very tender. The magistrate, who was a worthy man, and probably foreseeing the difficulties of arbitration in such a case, advised the applicant not to take a summons, but to deal with another butcher. The gentleman promised to think over the matter. Gentleman and ladies have novel ways of correcting each other in England. In the same paper from which the above edifying piece of news is taken, we read an account of a gentleman beating out his wife's brains with a frying-pan.

GOLDEN GRAINS.

If love were never professed but when it is felt, it would appear to be a scarce article.

GRIEF is lessened by common endurance; joy and hope are sweeter by common enjoyment.

DISPUTING is hot service, and is generally performed with too much eagerness to be successful.

NOTHING is more dangerous than an imprudent friend; better is it to deal with a prudent enemy.

POLITENESS is like an air-cushion—there may be nothing solid in it, but it eases the jolts of the world wonderfully.

A DISPOSITION to calumny is too bad a thing to be the only bad thing in us: a vice of that distinction cannot be without a large retinue.

EVERY man deems that he has precisely the trials and temptations which are the hardest of all for him to bear; but they are so because they are the very ones he needs.

FALSE happiness renders men stern and proud, and that happiness is never communicated. True happiness renders them kind and sensible, and that happiness is always shared.

A CONSCIENCE void of offence is an inestimable blessing, because it gives a pleasure which no rancourings of malice can destroy; it is proof against malignity itself, and smiles upon its most sanguinary efforts.

LAMPS do not talk; they simply shine. A lighthouse rounds no drum, it beats no gong, and yet far over the water its friendly spark is seen by the mariner. So should it be with religion, which should be proclaimed and made known by its quiet works rather than by loud or frequent professions.

BEAUTY is very much a matter of taste, for many ladies designated as plain have been found more amiable, more agreeable, and more fascinating than those considered handsome. Regular features are all very well; but they only appear delish, when they beam not with the light of amiability and intelligence.

How many men marry, and before the honeymoon is passed, begin to treat their partners with gold neglect—how many marry and will not give up their intemperate habits, and thus their forsaken wives are left to pine in anguish at home—and how many marry who soon treat them as slaves, and care not how they insult them should they dare to utter a complaint.

It is one of the severest tests of friendship to tell your friend of his faults. If you are angry with a man or hate him, it is not hard to go to him and stab him with words; but to so love a man that you cannot bear to see the stain of sin upon him, and to speak painful truths through loving words—that is friendship. But few have such friends. Enemies usually teach us what they are at the point of the sword. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

WE would advise all young people to acquire, in early life, the habit of correct speaking and writing; and to abandon, as early as possible, any use of slang words and phrases. The longer you live, the more difficult correct language will be; and if the golden age of youth, the proper season for the acquisition of language, be passed in its abuse, the unfortunate victim, if neglected, is very properly doomed to talk slang for life. Money is not necessary to procure this education. Every man has it in his power. He has merely to use the language which he reads, instead of the slang which he hears; to form his taste from the best speakers and poets in the country; to treasure up choice phrases in his memory, and habituate himself to their use, avoiding at the same time that pedantic precision and bombast which show the weakness of vain ambition rather than the polish of an educated man.

HUMOROUS SCRAPS.

"GIVE me none of your jaw," as the libert said to the man.

HOW TO MAKE MEAT ABUNDANT.—Live within your income, and then you will make both ends meet.

SHAKESPEARE says Macbeth doth murder sleep. The retribution is fearful; for how many actors murder Macbeth!

WHAT is the difference between a prude and a postage-stamp?—The one is always stuck up, the other always stuck down.

A KENTUCKIAN has by practical experiment settled a long-voiced question, and announces that it takes just five shots to kill a lightning-rod man.

AN absent-minded Danbury lady, on Monday, tied a bed-quilt she had just washed, in a rocker in front of the stove, and pinned her baby to the clothes-line.

AN Essex street boy made a very handsome snow man about seven feet high, Saturday, and reced it with his mother's sixty dollar Paisley shawl. He is saddest when he sits.

JOHN Grateiger, of Louisville, took down an old musket and shot at a turkey. The charge went out at the wrong end of the gun, and Mr. Grateiger was swept up on a dust pan.

JOHN BILLINGS gives the following advice to young men:—Don't be discouraged if your mustach don't grow; it sometimes happens where a mustach dux the best nothing else dux so well."

PENNY WISE.—National Schoolmaster (going round with Government Inspector): "Wilkins, how do you bring Shillings into Pence?"—Pupil: "Please, sir, 'takes it round to the Public-house, Sir!"

"WHY, Biddy," said Mary, "how long are you going to boll those eggs? You've had 'em on ten minutes already." "Well, faith, an' Missus told me to boll 'em soft; an' I'm goin' to boll 'em till they're soft; if it takes all day."

GERMANTOWN wants to have a goat show, with a prize for the Capricornus which can destroy the greatest amount of shrubbery in a given time, and for the one that can chew the heaviest week's wash off the biggest clothes line.

A PEORIA man stayed out in the yard until two o'clock the other night, trying to freeze his dog to death. Five doctors' buggies were standing in front of his house the next morning, and his dog is sucking eggs by day, and howling by night, as usual.

It is said that a man at the bottom of a deep well can see stars in the day-time. It is a fact. A man in the country, in this advantageous position for astronomical observation, saw quite a galaxy of stars of various magnitudes lately. A brick fell on his head from the top of the well.

A SOCIETY for the suppression of slang has been formed among the pupils of the girls' high school of San Francisco. Said a reporter to one of its members: "Your object is a praiseworthy one. Do you think you will succeed in eradicating conversational slang?" Said she, "You bet."

AN illiterate person, who always volunteered to "go round with the hat," but was suspected of sparing his own pocket, overhearing a hint once to that effect, replied, "Other gentlemen

puts down what they think proper, and so do I. Charity's a private concern, and what I give is nothing to nobody."

THE great-grandfather of Thomas Filwarie died at one hundred and fourteen; his grandfather at one hundred and forty; but the father died at the early age of sixty-two. His young son Edward, now only ninety-five, recklessly committed matrimony with a child of seventy. That is what comes of being an unadvised orphan.

ONE FOR THE LAWYERS.—Suppose a man owns a skiff; he fastens the skiff to the shore with a rope made of straw; along comes a cow; cow gets into the boat; turns round and eats the rope; the skiff thus left loose, with the cow on board, starts down stream, and on its passage is upset; the cow is drowned. Now, has the man that owns the cow got to pay for the boat, or the man that owns the boat got to pay for the cow?

A MARRIED woman in Decatur, Ohio, the other day, pining for her husband's society, went with her three little children to the billiard-room and took a seat by his side. "It's disgraceful," said he, looking daggers at her. "I know it," continued the injured wife, "and you have borne the disgrace so long, my dear, that I have determined henceforth to share it with you," and she took out her knitting and settled down for the evening. He went home much earlier, and it was the last of him that was seen in that billiard-room.

THE cultivated listener at any of our concerts (says an American writer) cannot fail to be brought to a knowledge of the fact that there are a great many varieties of the same kind of voice. Take, for instance, the soprano, and you will find the speaking, the squealing, the screaming, the squalling, the squawking, the screeching, the timid-flutter, the terrific sharner, and many other varieties. Among the altos are the guttural, the sepulchral, the thick, the thin, the betwixt-and-between, and the soft-seller alto. Other varieties of course exist which do not require the use of an ear-trumpet to enable the listener to distinguish them. Of tenors, the gasping, the blating, the pipe-stem, the over-the-pitch, the under-the-pitch, the up-the-nose, the crying, the tom-cat, and the saw-filing varieties are everywhere to be met with. Of all these the "crying tenor" is certainly the most to be dreaded. It can only be employed at funerals and "wakes," and even then its effect is almost too heart-rending. Now last, but not least, the basses. There is the roaring, the howling, the bellowing, the grain-leather, the pumpkin-stalk, the empty-barrel, the graveyard, the down-caller, the sledge-hammer, the wire-edge, the dry-as-dust, the mouldy, the gone-to-seed, and the blast-furnace bass.

OUR FUZZLER.

85. SINGLE CHRONOGRAM.

A date that should remembered be— Both high and low to this agree; A sweet and "merrle" month of the year; A term of endearment—no, not "dear," A river of England, suggestive of "blue;" A fabulous creature, half man, half horse, too; The spot where a queen's body rested this marks; A town that abounds in most beautiful parks; The wife of a sage, a most terrible shrew; A town famed for wine—'tis in Spain, I'll tell you; A land in the North—oh 'Us cold there, you'll find; A name for the rainbow—you'll bring it to mind.

BETSY HAMMON.

86. ENIGMA.

Wise men by me were one time led Through a devious path to an infant's bed. Behold me, and our sailors then Will know the merry cognomen. Offensive both to touch and smell, I'm useful if you use me well; While, if reversed, I must appear A vermin radsed and women fear.

J. WILKINS.

87. NUMERICAL CHARADE.

I am in a word of nine letters. My 7, 4, 2, 8, 9, is a river in Germany; my 1, 3, 6, is a number; my 9, 8, 1, 2, 3, 9, is to attract; my 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, means carried; my 1, 6, 3, is a weight; my 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, is something troublesome; my 7, 6, 5, signifies to steal; my 3, 6, 7, 8, is a kind of grain; and my whole is a highly interesting personage of the present day.

88. REBUS.

My nature is to importune Until I've gained my point; Transposed to the service of the church They over me anoint; Transposed again, to ornament Dresses I'm often made; While many a man for his misdeeds Has been by me epaid.

JESSE.

ANSWERS.

- 31. ANAGRAM.—"The Taming of the Shrew."
32. ENIGMA.—Mortar.
33. CHARADE.—Artib-Ur.
34. REBUS.—Cap, Apollo, Squall, Toll, Obiau, ReduX.—GASTON and POZIER.