

with a grab, as this tends to excite fear afterwards. By practising this course, using the sign, viz., holding up the hand when you are a little further away each time, a horse may be taught to stop and be caught, even when in considerable glee, (playing) simply by holding up the hand and using some familiar phrase, such as *whoa boy*, &c. By way of caution, however, watch his actions and intentions closely during his tutoring, and if at any time or from any cause, you see that he is going to run, do not by any means say anything or hold up your hand, as the sign given and disobeyed a few times, will almost inevitably prevent your making anything out of it in future.

Fannie's Flock of Sheep.

ED, RURAL NEW-YORKER :—In my last I said I would tell you about my flock of sheep. Not because I have anything astonishing or miraculous to disclose, do I do so, but simply because I think rural women should be represented in the RURAL. Now Mr. Editor you will not laugh at me will you?

In the spring of 1859 my husband purchased a sheep, for which he paid \$4.25, and presented her to me. In June following, was taken from Bettie's smooth, round back, a snowy fleece weighing 5½ lbs. at which time she was the mother of two ewe lambs. The transaction, tabulated would stand thus:

FIRST SHEARING.

Wool 5½ lbs., at 42 cts.,.....	\$2 41
Two lambs at \$2.....	4 00
Bettie, valued at.....	2 50

Total.....\$8 91

SECOND SHEARING, 1860.

Wool from three sheep, 17½ lbs., 36 cts.,.....	\$6 21
Two lambs, at \$2.....	4 00
Three old sheep, at \$2 50,.....	7 50

Total.....\$17 71

THIRD SHEARING, 1861.

Wool from five sheep, 29 lbs., at 30 cts.,.....	\$7 50
Four lambs, at \$2.....	8 00
Five old sheep, at \$2.50,.....	12 50

Total.....\$28 00

FOURTH SHEARING IN JUNE, 1862.

Wool from nine sheep, 37 lbs., at 44 cts.,.....	\$16 28
Three lambs, at \$2.....	6 00
Nine old sheep, at \$2.50.....	22 50

Total.....\$44 78

Several lambs were lost last spring, by reason of a drenching rain which occurred in the night, while the flock were in a back pasture.

Almost any good farmer or sheep-grower could beat this, I suppose; but can you, rural ladies? If so, let us hear from you.

Ladies, (*sotto voce*), if any of you find difficulty in the way of procuring "pin money," just get your husband to procure for you a sheep or a pig or a half dozen of fowls, over which you shall have exclusive ownership, and see how soon you will have all you wish.

HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

If the weather should be propitious this month all gardens will be lavish of their floral treasures. Roses have not yet ceased to bloom. Many shrubs and herbaceous plants are still in bloom, and most annuals, particularly those which have been forwarded in hot-beds, are beginning to flower. Bulbous plants, having finished their bloom, are now decaying, and will soon disappear or be removed.

The active work of the month will consist mostly of the care of the lawn, weeding and hoeing the borders, proper attention to tying up climbers and tall-growing plants, removing decayed flowers and leaves, and some attention to the walks.

The lawn will not need as frequent mowings as in the earlier months, as the growth of the grass will not be nearly so rapid during the hot, dry days of this month as in the moister and cooler days of spring and early summer.

The evil effects of drouth may be averted in a great measure by keeping the borders constantly hoed and raked, being careful to do this after heavy rains, as the soil becomes very compact and impervious to air and dew by the action of a hot sun upon it after showers. Watering by hand should not be resorted to if it be possible to avoid it, for apart from the labour of watering sufficiently even a small garden, is the fact that each watering assists in baking the soil, rendering it necessary to expend much time in removing its effects. Whenever plants are really suffering, however, it will be found indispensable to give them water, which should be given in sufficient quantities to soak the ground thoroughly, so that it may not need it again immediately.

The necessity of neatness has been so often insisted upon in the floral column, that it need only be alluded to here "to stir up the pure mind by way of remembrance."

The Town Garden.

WATER.—The first essential to success, our author considers a good supply of water, so that the foliage can be well washed, as often as may be necessary, and this in dusty towns, is nearly every evening.

RENEWAL OF THE SOIL.—Many of our city gardens are failures, solely from the nature of the soil. A garden that has been in use for a score of years, dug each season only a few inches deep, and somewhat shaded, will become pasty, and almost poisonous to plants. This must be changed by deep digging, so as to turn up the fresh subsoil, by adding good fresh loam from the country, by the use of lime, or some other available means. We have often urged this matter upon the attention of our readers.

DEAD WOOD is declared to be destructive to city gardens. It rots in the soil, and produces a fungus growth. As this is a subject somewhat new, and as we have seen the ill effects of chip manure under similar circumstances, we give a leaf from the chapter on this subject. "In the country we prize rotten wood as a capital material in peat borders, and for the culture, &c., but in damp soils, near towns and everywhere in gardens confined by walls,