

should oil all the various parts of it once in two or three months. The house will last much longer, and will be much more quiet to live in. Oil the locks, bolts, hinges of the street-door, and it will shut gently, with luxurious ease, and with the use of a small amount of force. A neglected lock requires great violence to cause it to shut, and with so much violence that the whole house, its doors, its windows, its very floors and joints, are much shaken, and in time they get out of repair in all sorts of ways, to say nothing of the dust that is dislodged every time the place is so shaken. The incessant banging of doors, scrooping of locks, creaking and screeching of hinges, is a great discomfort. Even the bell wire cranks should be sometimes oiled, and they will act more certainly and with such gentle force that there will be little danger of breaking any part of them. The castors of tables and chairs should be sometimes oiled, and they will move with such gentle impulse and so quietly that a sleeping child or old man is not awakened. A well-oiled door-lock opens and shuts with hardly a whisper. Three pennyworth of oil used in a large house once a year will save many shillings in locks and other materials, and in the end will save many pounds in even the substantial repairs of a house; and an old wife living and sleeping in quite repose will enjoy many more years of even temper and active usefulness. Housekeepers, pray do not forget the oil. A stitch in time saves nine, and a drop in time saves pounds.—*The Builder.*

#### SLATE FOR ROOFING PURPOSES.

What shall we use for roofing for our buildings, is a question that is yearly becoming of more importance, as shingles that are generally used for farm buildings are every season becoming scarcer and dearer and are at best very indifferent for the purpose. Many substitutes are proposed, but for durability, beauty, and comparative cheapness, slate is probably the best thing that can be used. Many causes have conspired heretofore to bring this material into disrepute in some sections. One was, ignorance in those working quarries, of what should be used and what rejected. It was supposed that the scaly material alone could be split to the requisite thickness, and that the solid stone could not be worked; but with more experienced workmen, the scaly stone is now rejected and the solid only used. Of the slate, there are various colors—black, blue, red, &c., found in different localities and occasionally in the same quarry. The writer had the pleasure a short time since, of visiting the quarries at North Hebron, Wash. Co., N.Y. The slate found here is of a fine red color, and said by good judges to be of a very superior quality. No slate of this color had, until within a year or two, been known to exist in this country, the few specimens seen being imported from Wales or from France. A Welshman, who had been

a practical quarryman in his own country, first opened one of the quarries, since when some three or four companies have invested a considerable amount of capital in the business of getting out the slate for roofing, and the tiles for stone floors, known as Mosaic. The quarries are worked mostly by Welshmen, who were familiar with the business before coming to this country. The refuse slate is ground, making a very fine material for painting.

As a matter of economy, the slate must in time come into general use. It is furnished at a price but little above that of the best shingles; it is not, like them, liable to take fire from sparks from chimneys or elsewhere, and will last a long time. We have seen it stated that an old house was torn down lately in Boston—the slate from the roof of which sold for eight dollars a square—after covering the house for more than a hundred years. A square of slate will cover about the same superficial area as a thousand shingle. For suburban cottages, a very pretty roof may be made by using the different colors of slate in alternate squares.

There is abundance of fine slate in Canada and it is now to be had to purchase in Montreal, Quebec and other leading towns.—*ED. FARMER'S JOURNAL.*

**SETTING HENS.**—In setting hens, thirteen eggs is enough to give them; a large hen might cover more, but a few stronger, well-hatched chicks are better than a large brood of weaklings, that have been delayed in the shell perhaps twelve hours over the time, from insufficient warmth. At the end of a week, it is usual, with setting turkeys, to add two or three fowl's eggs, "to teach the young turkeys to pick." The plan is not a bad one; the activity of the chickens does stir up some emulation in their larger brethren. The eggs take but little room in the nest, and will produce two or three very fine fowls.—*D. KIRTLAND, Albany.*

**VENTILATION OF FARM BUILDINGS.**—Most of the stables and cattle-sheds in modern farm buildings are defective in regard to ventilation. Nor is the remedy easy. Openings in the lower part of the building for the admission of cool air invariably produce drafts and currents of cold air are by no means conducive to the health or comfort of stock. For cattle, indeed, we are satisfied that a shed open on one side is altogether the best, where the animals are kept in boxes. Where they are tied up to the manger, they have so little opportunity of choosing their position, and are so little in motion, that a close building is generally thought to be necessary. In all such cases a good plan of ventilation is much needed. We have been in many cattle buildings erected at great cost, in which the atmosphere is vitiated, both from want of fresh air and from the manure. At a recent meeting

of the Fettercairn Farmer's Club, Sir John Stuart Forbes, of Pitsligo, brought a plan, invented by Mr. Watson, of Halifax, before his audience, as well adapted for farm buildings. It consists of a tube passing from the top of the place to be ventilated into the open air, such tube being longitudinally divided into equal parts. The hot air ascends on one side and the cool descends on the other, and effects a perfect ventilation without producing a draught or unnecessarily cooling the room. The upper part which is in the open air is protected by a cap. A 33 inch ventilator, made of zinc, and costing £8, will completely remove all effluvia from a four or six-horse stable.—*Economist.*

#### THE CATTLE SHOW AT ARMAGH.

The show of the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland will be held at Armagh on the 9th, 10th and 11th days of the ensuing month. The council of the society have arranged for the reception in the show-yard, of agricultural implements for competition, on Saturday, the 5th of August, and Monday, the 7th; for the reception of cattle, on Tuesday, the 8th; and for the reception of horses, on the morning of Wednesday, the 9th, before the hour of eight o'clock a. m. It is stated that the entries of stock, farming produce, of implements, &c., &c., for the ensuing show, far exceed those of former years, and are double the number of those entered for the grand show which was held at Killarney last year. The forthcoming show has had the most beneficial effect already on the business and trade of the town.—*Mark Lane Express.*

#### PLANTING SMALL POTATOES.

We have given no little attention to this subject for many years, and have settled the matter conclusively in our minds, that it does not pay to plant small seed. For fifteen years we planted the same nameless variety, on the same soil, and at the end of that time found no deterioration in the quality or yield, but rather an improvement. We have invariably thrown out from our seed all potatoes less in size than a hen's egg, and also rejected those overgrown, pitted or irregular shaped.

In some favorable seasons, and on particular soils, those purchasing and planting the small potatoes which we have rejected, have raised crops equal to or more prolific than our own; but one year with another, we have averaged thirty to fifty per cent. better crops of good potatoes, than our small potato neighbors.

What we have found true in regard to potatoes, we have also, by long practice, proved true in regard to other kinds of seed. Our plumpest and earliest grains have always been reserved for propagation, and our neighbors can testify that our practice has been attended with good results.—*American Agriculturist.*