

Editor's Table.

HINTS FOR APRIL.—The farmer's work will now have begun, and sunny days alternating with fitful showers will swell the buds and blossoms, making all things ready for blooming May. As nature arouses herself from her wintry slumbers, the tiller of the soil will find his cares and labors increase, though they can be much diminished in amount by the exercise of care and forethought.

If wet places are or have been observable in your wheat or grain fields, let the surface drains be opened at once and kept open; and if possible, make arrangements for thorough under-drainage at the proper season. Fences will have been put in thorough repair, and stock will be kept off your mowing lands, particularly while the ground is soft.

The sheep and cattle folds will now require special attention, and ewes in lamb and cows in calf must be sheltered from cold storms of wind and rain. Animals as well as men can endure great degrees of cold with impunity, provided their skins are kept dry; but cold and wet together will impair the stoutest constitutions, and induce incurable disease.

Every one who keeps stock should feed roots now, at least once a day, in order that the digestive organs may be kept in proper and healthy tone. A mixture of salt, ashes, and a little sulphur will be of benefit to animals with unhealthy skins. Lice are sometimes a great annoyance to animals in the early spring (not generally to those properly fed and cared for). There are several remedies which may be used in such a case, viz: sprinkling dry Scotch snuff around the points most liable to be infested, or dry slaked lime over their bodies, and thoroughly currying and brushing the animal; and an acquaintance says the best thing he ever tried was washing the animal with water in which a good quantity of potatoes had been boiled.

A bushel of gypsum to the acre should be sown on pasture and meadow lands, except where experience has shown it to be of no particular benefit. Whatever may be the theory of its action, whether as a stimulant or as a specific manure, there can be no question but that its use tends to induce a growth of the finer and more nutritious grasses, and it is particularly beneficial on clover hay.

Fruit and forest trees should now be set out as soon as possible;—not into holes just large enough to allow the roots to be crowded and forced into place, but of sufficient size to allow every root and spongole its natural and unconstrained position. But some may say, why insist so much upon all this care and attention in the treatment of transplanted trees and shrubs?—we know it already; we have been told of it many times already—tell us something new. To such we would answer, why ring the bell of the locomotive at every railroad crossing? People know there is danger if they will not be careful. Why spend so much of life in the daily routine of every day duties? Life to all is but the repetition mostly of little things, in themselves considered. The oak in all its majesty and strength adds but little daily to its substance, while in time it becomes the monarch of the forest. So it is with every ac-

and thing in this world. No man ever becomes distinguished at once—and no method of cultivation, however useful it may be, will ever be adopted in haste. If your trees have been carefully taken up and removed, and have a good portion of roots attached, there is no necessity, ordinarily, for close pruning, but more err by not pruning enough, than by pruning too closely. If they (the trees) have but little root, leave but little top—proportion the one to the other. There is another point to which we will advert, and that is the choice of trees. A smooth, straight stem is most agreeable to the eye, but do not let the appearance be your guide. "Low, stout trees are always preferable to tall, slender ones. Inexperienced planters are generally more particular about the height than the diameter of the trunk; but it should be just the other way. If trees are stout and have good roots, a foot in height is comparatively unimportant, unless to one who wishes to turn his cattle into his orchard and have the heads of his trees at once out of the way. In elevated and exposed situations low trees are much to be preferred."

No definite or precise rules can be given as to the kinds of fruit to be selected. Each one must be governed by his locality, soil, climate, and facilities for market. Plant mainly of those varieties which by trial have been found reliable.

And here, in connection with these desultory remarks, we would advert to a topic, in connection with fruits and fruit trees, which has been a subject of much thought with ourselves. How shall we instill a love of husbandry and of home in the hearts of our sons and daughters? Too many, in their haste to amass wealth, consider the services of their children as mere substitutes for hired labor. To a certain extent it may be done, but in our view, there is something more for a parent to do than to make a matter of dollars and cents of the thews and sinews of his children. What wonder is it that boys are anxious to leave the homestead, and girls to marry at the first offer, if to them there is no part nor title in their home. We think a simple, yet effectual remedy for the restless and uneasy impulses of many of our youth would be to give them a piece of land to have as their own, and give them the avails of its products. Let them have a portion of the orchard—a single tree, it may be—teach them how to cultivate their portions to the best advantage; let them early be made to feel that if they would prosper in after life, habits of attention and industry must be formed now. Teach them to carefully observe every fact and practice that influences a result; and unless their nature is sadly perverse, a rich reward will be yours.

NEW GATE AND BARN DOOR FASTENER.—The latch manufactured by the Arnold Sash Lock Company, of this city, for barn doors and gates, from actual trial we find to be all that is claimed for it by the patentee. Remarkably simple in its construction, and free from complication, it is superior to anything of the kind in this vicinity, being strong, durable, efficient, and easily applied.

We have received quite a number of letters replying to "P. S." respecting rats. Want of space prevents the insertion of the residue.