one-fifth (7,738,113 bushels) of all the malt used in brewing. Beer in common parlance is said to be maid of malt and hops. It is from Hertford and Ware that London draws its supplies of malt, and the hops from Kent, Surrey, and Sussex are chiefly sold in the London market. Belgium also sends us some. There is reason to believe that its Protestant Walloons first introduced the growth of the hop into this country.

If, as some say, 2,000,000 barrels of beer are consumed in London annually, what an ocean London drinks! This beer is conveyed to the public chiefly through the medium of 10,000 publiceshouses and beer-shops. It is calculated there is one publican for every 688 of the inhabitants. Give, said a writer in a popular magazine a year or two since, every public-house or beer-shop an average frontage of twenty-onne feet, and we shall find if placed side by side they would make a row of houses thirty-nine miles in length. A little while ago, the returns of a large public-house in the Edgwar Road were advertised as £250 per week, an amount equal to the whole expenditure for wine, beer, and spirits of the Athenæum, and Conservatives Clubs put together.

It is often asked, Whom should we hang? I say, Why, not the publicans. Dr. Letheby tells us that they all, almost without exception, reduce their liquor with water after receiving it from the brewer, the proportion in the better class of houses being nine gallons per puncheon, and in second-rate establishments double that. Well, I do not know that taht is any great sin. As it is, the beer that is drunk in public-houses and beer-shops is quite strong enough to create an immense amount of misery and pauperism crime. But other ingredients are used; they are, says the eminent individual already referred to, foots and liquorice to sweeten it; a bitter principle, as gentia and quassia, sumach and terra japonica, to give it astringency; a thickening matter, as linseed, to give it a body; a colouring matter, as burnt sugar, to darken it; cocculus indicus to impart to it a false strength, and common capsicum, copperas, and Dantzic spruce to produce a head; salt also is given to create thirst. One thinks of Sheridan's squib—

"They've raised the price of table-beer;
What's the reason, do you think?
The tax on malt's the cause, I hear.
But what has malt to do with beer?"

But it is not all beer that is drunk by the Londoners. Walk along the New Cut, stroll into St. Giles's, patronise the great establishments with plate-glass windows and gas which you see in all parts of London, especially the poorer ones, and find a wretched crew, dirty, dissipated, in rags, as often female as male, dull of aspect, sodden in face, very shaky as regards their hands. They drink gin—fine old Tom. What is that deceitful liquor made of? Well, the chemist tells me it is never sold pure; it is always diluted with water. So much the better; but unfortunately, to compensate for the weakness created by the water, other ingredients are introduced—in some cases actually oil of vitriol, or sulphuric acid. In the generality of cases potass and alum are used, and oil of almonds to produce beading, and grains of paradise. A rare cordial is fine old gin! I have known it, however, to be useful. A short time since a friend of the writer's was in deadly peril—he was where he ought not to have been—he was in an enemy's country. A German soldier was in the act of teaching him practically the potency of German steel. Ignorant of *Deutsche*, and too fat to run, my friend considered that his last hour had come, and was preparing to yield up the ghost like a man and a Briton, and the father of a family, when he remembered that amongst his luggage was a bottle of real, prime London gin, carefully purchased at that establishment in the Rue Villa Hermosa, Brussels, dear and deservedly dear to travelling Englishmen, and not the gin of Whitechapel or St. Giles's. To uncork that bottle and proffer it with a friendly hand to the infuriated foe, was the work of an instant. The warrior stopped—looked cautiously around to see that no detective eye was on him—scanned anxiously the features of my fat friend to be sure that no treason was afloat, and then raised the bottle to his lips. "*Ach!*" said he as the subtle fluid penetrated his interior, "*das it gut.*" In the twinkling of an eye a miracle has been accomplished—a foe had been turned into a friend, and an honest man's life had been saved. In this case, at any rate, we have a marvellous illustration of the virtues of London gin. But other spirits are dear to Londoners. I fear they drink as much real French brandy in a month as is ever made in France in a twelvemonth. This fact is suspicious, or would be so were not every individual Londoner a judge of the genuine article, and certain that his wine and spirit merchant could not take him in, and that he is too honest and honourable a man to make the attempt. "You are sure this is a genuine wine?" said I to a clergyman with whom I dined but recently. "Oh, certain," was the emphatic reply. "I have known the wine merchant many years, and am sure that he is a truly religious man." Yet I have known some people who think religion has nothing to do with business, and who act accordingly; I leave you to imagine what sort of wine and spirits they sell. But there is an excuse for them; there is nothing more tempting than to play off practical jokes on conceited ignoramuses. "I want something better than this," said a civic swell to a wine merchant, as he stood in the counting-house of the latter, tasting some port. What did the merchant do? It is a fact that he brought up another bottle of the same port, which he quoted at a higher figure. The purchaser was delighted; that was just the port he liked, and a handsome order was the result. Have I not seen, at the festive board, a bottle of claret found fault with and universally ordered off, and have I not seen a bottle of the same bin served up as an improved article, and voted sich accordingly? Ah! wine and woman, what mysteries ye are!

But I have not done yet with the spirits. I have spoken of brandy and gin: are rum and whiskey better? That is a question easier asked than answered. I once met a gentleman from Demerara. "Ah!" he said, "I have made many a hogs-head of rum from bilge-water." I don't think I have ever drank Demerara rum since. It is true he declared the rum was only for the use of negroes on the coast of Africa, but accidents will occur in the best-regulated families, and it is always best to be on the safe side.

But wine, generous wine, beloved of the poets, surely that is the juice of the grape! Let us hear Dr. Druitt. He asks if the medical men ever take the trouble to examine the wine they recommand to their patients in cases of debility. On one occasion, he says, curiosity prompted him to ask leave to taste a wine which had cost 4s. 6d., and had been obtained at a neighbouring wine-vault. When the cork was drawn it was scarcely coloured and was a very bad one, a thing of no good augury for the wine. There was no smell of port wine; the liquid when tasted give half a dozen sensations instead of one. There was a hot taste of spirits, a sweet taste, a fruity tast like damsons, and an unmistakable flavour of Roussillon; "it was a strong unwholesome liquor, purchased very dearly."

Dispeptic patients dont take port when the doctors recommend them sherry; our common sherries come from Spain—not a bit of it; from Hamburg and Bremen. Hamburg sherry is made of potato-gin, capillaire and flavouring materials, with possibly ten gallons of grape-juice to the butt. It yields the enterprising shipper a profit of 13 per cent.; if he omits altogether the ten gallon of wine-juice the profit is infinitely increased. "Let us hope that some friends of humanity," writes Dr. Druitt, "will interfere to protect helpless women and children, at Christmas and juvenile parties, from cheap Hamburg port and sherry." You and I, dear sir, know better; the port we drink is the genuine article—not such as

"You set before chance comers,
But such whose father grape grew fat
On Lusitanian summers."

At Oporto the wine manufacturers are said to mix elder-juice, apple-juice, sloe-juice, logwood decoction, and many other things in the port wine. The real wine of Douro, it is acknowledged, scarcely ever reaches London at all. Recipes for making port wine are abundant. It has been proved in a court of law, that wine sold as port in London has not contained a drop of port in it at all.

Even the lighter wines are made in a way which must render them unwholesome. Further, Dr. Thudicum contends that the Spanish, Portuguese, and French wines of the South are plastered — that is to say, "plaster of Paris is dusted over the grapes immediately after they are gathered, or when they are in a state of must." I am quite open to instruction on the use of plastering, but have sought it in vain of some large producers or importers of sherry. No doubt the 20 per cent. of alcohol in sherry is a cause of kidney affection, but the cause is at least doubled by the potassium salt. This plastered wine, instead of stimulating, has a depressing influence on the heart.

Turn a total abstainer, drink water, tea, coffee, and ginger beer. I fear (to use a vulgar expression,) if I do so I only jumb out of the frying-pan into the fire. Pure water is rare; it is contaminated in many ways; boys bathe in it, poodles are washed in it, cats terminate in it a too lively career, all that is horrible is often drained into it, and then there are the lead pipes. Take milk; of fifteen samples examined the other day by a Manchester man only three were found perfectly genuine. Ah! there's the cup that cheers, but not inebriates. Well, I must own there are times when nothing is pleasanter than a good cup of tea; but where am I to get it? A writer in the *Food Journal* says of thirty-five samples of London tea submitted to him for examination, sixteen were highly adulterated, and many of them quite unfit for human consumption. Chocolate, which is described as meat and drink, is adulterated with flour, potato-starch, sugar, cocoanut-oil, lard, tallow, mutton suet, ochre, chalk, old sea-biscuit, and bran. Beautiful drink it must be!

Try coffee. Well, I don't mind the chicory along with it, but chicory itself is hard to find genuine. Burnt rags, red earth, and rope yarn have been found in chicory. I admit these are extreme cases, but the fact is, in the rage for cheapness, and the desire of one honest and respectable tradesman to undersell another honest and respectable tradesman, undoubtedly chicory even is tampered with in many ways.

But surely ginger beer and lemonade, says the disciple of John Gough, may be quaffed with impunity. There is no sorrow in that bowl, no poison in that cup. Alas! the other day, of six specimens of lemonade analysed, four were found to contain poisonous contaminations. The ginger beer is worse; in many cases it is atrocious. One sample was found to give enough acetic acid to make a table-spoonful of common vinegar, four grains of cream of tartar, a trace of copper, and the whole was served up in a bottle smelling strongly of petroleum. Fellow-countrymen, there is indeed poison in the cup; bold Bacchanalian, tremble as you quaff of the flowing bowl.

"Plump head waiter at the Cross
To which I must resort."

don't expect me ever more to "liquor up," or ask me what I will "take to drink."

Cassel's Magazine.

LITERARY NOTES.

GERMANY has four journals advocating the principle of vegetarianism, or as it is called there, a "rational mode of life."

SINCE 1836, in New York city, over sixty daily papers have started and died, after losing at least twenty millions of dollars.

THE oldest newspapers in Edinburgh is the *Courant*, established in 1705, and edited until 1710 by no less a writer than Daniel Defoe.

THERE are two papers in the English language published in Constantinople—the *Levant Herald* and the *Levant Times and Shipping Gazette.*

THERE are twenty-nine journals published in South Africa, nearly fifty in Australia, twelve in Van Dieman's Land, and six in the Sandwich Islands.

THE first Russian newspaper was published in 1703, and Peter the Great was the senior editor. The imperial autocrat not only took part personally in its editorial composition, but in correcting proofs, as appears from sheets still in existence, on which are marks and alterations in his own hand.

THE *Chicago Legal News* has made its appearance regularly, notwithstanding the fire, which swept away office and library. This paper is remarkable for being edited by a woman, Mrs. Myra Bradwell, and, says the *New York Nation*, "we believe that it is esteemed by the profession at the best law journal in the country.

AN important book, treating on the vexed question of the connection between the populations of the Old and New World, by Julius Platzmann, the distinguished artist in water colours, will soon be brought before the Anglo-American public by Mr. Trubner, under the title of "Americano-Asiatic Etymologies, *viâ* Behrings Straits from the East to the West."

ALL who take an interest in Celtic literature will be glad to learn that Dr. Whitely Stokes, who is now home from India, is preparing for publication a now and much enlarged edition of the "Gaedelica." The first edition, we believe, was printed only for private circulation. The same eminent philologist is also preparing for publication, in the "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," "The Feliré of Aengus the Culdee," with a translation and notes.

Mr. Tennyson has written a new Idyll of the King. It is called the "Last Tournament," and gives us the lives of Tristran and Isolt, with their unlawful loves, and the murder of Tristran by an aggrieved husband. Opinions are divided as to whether this new Idyll will add to Mr. Tennyson's fame, or beauty and completeness to the Arthurian epic. The theme is rather a dangerous one, although treated with characteristic delicacy. Mr. Longfellow has also published a companion picture to his Garden Legend in "the Legend Beautiful;" and a new poem, called "The Divine Tragedy."—*Public Opinion.*

"BRIGHT, Beautiful, and Cheery," with the vigor of youth and the wisdom of ages, comes the first number of the XXXIst Annual Volume of the *American Agriculturist*, bearing upon its pages fifty interesting and instructive engravings, and a fund of information in its well filled columns which are freighted with a great variety of pratical, trustworthy hints, that must be of a great utility to every reader, whether living in City, Village, or Country. It is down on all shams and humbugs, and its showing up of those is alone worth all it costs. Every one having not already done so will do well to provide himself and family with this Journal for the present year. Orange Judd & Co. Publishers, New York.

PAUL DU CHAILLU, who never fails to interest, gives in *The Country of the Dwarfs* a fascinating account of travels in Africa. The book contains numerous illustrations, some of which are extremely grotesque, especially those showing the different styles of chignons worn by the Ishogo women. Evidently the Ishogos do not intend to let their civilized sisters outchignon them. The Ishogo hair-dresser is a person of great importance, and is always in demand, as it requires much time and skill to bring the woolly heads up to the prevailing mode, but if the work be well done it lasts from two or three months without repair. The book abounds with descriptions of the dress and manners of the different tribes, and is vastly entertaining. But we do not suppose that Mr. Du Chaillu expects everybody to believe him in earnest in *this* book. (Harper & Brothers, New York.)

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS.

IT is understood that Mr. Darwin is now preparing a new edition of his "Origin of Species," in which he will answer the objections of weight which have been urged against the theory of natural selection.

WYOMING Territory probably swarmed with turtles in the early part of what is known in geology as the Tertiary period. This we know from the large number of fossils which are from time to time discovered there. There were both fresh-water turtles and land turtles, and it also appears that crocodiles were quite numerous throughout the same region.

THE opinion that light was absolutely necessary to the existence of life, which formerly prevailed among scientific men, has been modified by the view of Agassiz, that the animals of the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, including the blind fish, are aboriginal inhabitants of their present abode. Sir Humphrey Davy, who studied the habitat of the eyeless reptiles found in the caves of the Austrian province of Carniola, came to the conclusion that these creatures are brought from surface lakes through fissures in the limestone rocks.

A NEW theory of the future fate of the earth has been promulgated in France by a young geologist named Meunier, according to which the destruction of the globe will be occasioned not by excessive heat, but by the intensity of the cold which will one day prevail. M. Meunier regards aerolites as fragments of a heavenly body about as large as the moon, which, having reached the requisite degree of coldness, went to pieces ages ago. The earth, according to this philosopher, will some time do likewise. His views derive their principal title to attention from the fact that they have been received with favor by the eminent savant, M. Dumas.

A SCIENTIFIC commission in the interest of the government of Peru has lately been investigating the guano deposits of the Lobos Islands: and it is reported that the result of their inquiries has been very satisfactory, and that immense quantities of very rich guano, equal, if not superior, to that of the Chincha Islands, have been observed. The analyses of samples are said to have yielded over thirteen per cent. of ammonia. Should this be the fact, Payta, as being the nearest port, will probably become a place of considerable importance.

YEAST.—The superiority of German beer and German bread is generally attributed to the kind of yeast employed, which is said to be more regular in its action than the ordinary ferment. It is prepared in the following way:—Three kind of grain, viz., Indian corn, barley, and rye (all sprouting), are powdered and mixed, and then macerated in water at a temperature of 65 deg. to 75 deg. C. In a few hours saccharification takes place. The liquor is then racked off, allowed to clear, and alcoholic fermentation set up by the help of a minute quantity of yeast. As fermentation progresses, the globules of yeast reproduce themselves, attaining a diameter of 10 or 12 mm. Carbonic acid is disengaged during the process with much rapidity, and globules of yeast are thrown up by the gas and remain floating on the surface, where they form a thick scum, which is carefully removed and constitutes the best and purest yeast. When drained and compressed by an hydraulic press, it can be kept from eight to fifteen days, according to the season.

WERE FLINTS SPONGES?—A correspondent of the *English Mechanic* thinks that the sticky viscid substance Bathybius, so enormously abundant on the sea bottom, where the Globigerina mud on recent chalk is being deposited (the same substance, in a more diluted form, being present in all sea-water, so as to make it a very weak protoplasmic solution), is the most likely origin of flints. But few sponges were dredged up, so that if the calcareous mud be some day hardened into chalk, like the so-called cretaceous deposit, with similar bands of flints, its flints would be more likely to be from out of the abundant material rather than the more rare. If Bathybius had been slowly silicified and subjected to the pressure of superincumbent deposits, it would, before it became quite hard, be squeezed into the irregular forms the mineral now presents. Some naturalists suppose that flints were formed by the dissolution of siliceous organisms, diatoms, &c., in the chalk, and their deposit in seams, cracks, and cavities, &c. This seems scarcely tenable, as any chemical force sufficient to dissolve silica would have so far metamorphosed the chalk as to have hidden all traces of organic life; instead of which we find that sufficient chalk to cover the point of a penknife contains thousands of beautiful fossils, and even in solid flints I have seen a perfect specimen of Globigerina.

THE fact that in the waters of Oregon and of Washington Territory, as well as of Alaska, salmon can not be captured with the artificial fly—nor, indeed, taken at all with the line—has been a subject of much surprise and no little disappointment to sportsmen who have tried the experiment, and the subject has been dwelt upon as exhibiting a strong contrast between the habits of the Western fish and those of the North Atlantic.

It is also maintained, and generally believed, that of the myriads of salmon that ascend the Western rivers, few or none retrace their course to the sea, but succumb to the fatigue and dangers of the ascent, and to the exhaustion produced by the spawning operation. Certain it is that the shores of the Columbia and other great streams during the salmon season are lined with dead fish throughout their entire length, furnishing food for innumerable hawks, eagles, buzzards, crows, etc., as well as for mammals of various kinds.

Quite recently, however, it has been ascertained that while the salmon will not take fly, as stated, in the rivers, they will do so in the salt-water outside their mouths. We are informed that this fact having been ascertained within a year or two past, the officers stationed at Fort Disappointment, on the north side of the mouth of the Columbia, have been enjoying rare sport in salmon-fishing. The best ground is said to be near the light-house, directly inside the mouth of the river, where the fish are taken in the spring just previous to their upward migration. They are caught here in great numbers, and of such size (up to forty pounds) as to be very difficult to handle.

LEGAL ITEMS.

CHAOS IN OUR LAW.—One plan, says the *Law Times*, of stopping the extension of chaos in our law is by the introduction of harmony into the decisions of our courts. But, so far from approaching to anything like harmony, the decisions seem to be drifting further apart than ever. Within a few days we have had singular illustrations of this in our courts of common law. One case had reference to the validity of a custom prevailing among brokers. We do not propose to discuss the question, for the very sufficient reason that it is one upon which Lords Abinger and Wensleydale are at a variance, and upon which the Court of Common Pleas, as lately constituted, is equally divided, the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Montague Smith holding one way, and Mr. Justice Willes and Mr. Justice Keating the other. A second case has reference to certain fixtures which, it was contended, were mere movable chattels. The point was very important, inasmuch as certain mills containing some hundreds of looms were mortgaged to bankers, and, on the bankruptcy of the mortgagors, their assignees claimed the looms, which the bankers contended were part of the mill. In the argument it was pointed out that the decision in the Queen's Bench on which the decision in this case had proceeded, was directly opposed to a previous case in the Exchequer, and also to another case in the Queen's Bench, in which the judgment was delivered by Mr. Justice Blackburn; and it was added that the Exchequer decision had been declared right in another case in the Queen's Bench. And the present Lord Chancellor had decided a case as Vice Chancellor in accordance with the decision under appeal. This state of things brings us back to a suggestion, which we have made more than once, that there should be a standing committee of legal and other members of the House of Commons, to whom matters of conflict in legal decisions should be referred. It seems a great hardship that suitors should be made to pay the expense of rendering the confusion in our law worse confounded, without any reasonable certainty of obtaining just decisions in their particular causes.

JUDICIAL REFORM.—The *Times* remarks that the establishment of a Supreme Court of Appeal sitting continuously is a first condition of the due administration of justice in the United Kingdom, and would probably put an end to those ten-year causes of which Mr. Harcourt give instance. We would gladly see in the recent appointment of Judges to the Privy Council the germ of such a tribunal, but it is difficult to be sanguine of an institution which has begun so ominously ill. But even if the Common Law Judges were relieved of appeal duties, except where some of the most eminent might be members of the Supreme Court, we can see no prospect of permanent improvement so long as seventeen, or it may be fifteen, men are forced to undertake such multifarious duties. A great change must come, and it is the interest of the profession, as well as of the country, that it should be no longer delayed.

MEDICAL ITEMS.

THE IPECACUANHA TREE.—One of the greatest difficulties, says the *Pioneer* (Indian paper), attending the propagation of ipecacuanha, the cultivation of which is now being attempted in this country, is the impossibility of obtaining perfect seed. It has been discovered, however, that by cutting the root below the surface of the ground, numerous offshoots are produced, which can be easily transplanted. One species only of this plant has been known in England until very recently; but now a second has been introduced from South America, and it is hoped that by the union of these two species it may be possible to produce perfect seed, which will greatly assist in the propagation of this useful but slow-growing tree.

WARNING TO MOTHERS AND NURSES.—Little children are sometimes dragged, remarks the *British Medical Journal*, about by careless nurses in a most inconsiderate manner—especially where there is temper on both sides. A little girl about two years old was brought to the Great Northern Hotel to have an abscess opened in front of the axilla. When this was done, a large quantity of pus escaped. The mother stated that a fortnight before she had been hastily seized by one arm and lifted up by the girl who had charge of her. She was taken to a surgeon—Mr. Soutter—who declared that the pectoralis major had been ruptured. There was a clear and distinct groove between the two ends of the muscle, both being curled up like balls. Apparently the most perfect retraction of the fibres had occurred. Mr. Soutter bound the arm across the chest, to bring as far as possible the ends near each other. The child was kept quiet, and had nourishing food, &c.; but in spite of every measure suppuration took place; a large abscess formed, and for this the mother brought the child to the hospital. It is now doing well.

COMPOUND SYRUP OF ASSAFŒTIDA.—Mr. J. J. Rambo, of New York, calls attention (*American Journal of Pharmacy*) to a formula for this preparation, which, he says, he has been for a number of years in the habit of preparing, to obviate the great objection felt by most patients to the disagreeable smell and taste of assafœtida, and which has prevented to a great extent the more general use of this valuable drug. "This formula I find to answer the purpose effectually, at the same time its medicinal qualities are enhanced by composition with syrup of wild cherry, possessing the valuable therapeutic properties of both. R. Infusi pruni Virginianæ, ℥j: Assafœtida, gr. j: Sacch. albi, gr. xxiv; Magnes. carb. oz. ij. Rub the assafœtida and magnesia with the infusion gradually added, so as to make a uniform mixture and filter; to this, transferred to a bottle, add the sugar, and agitate occasionally until it is dissolved. As a result, we have a handsome syrup which does not differ in appearance from the syrup of wild cherry. The property possessed by the volatile oils of bitter almonds, cherry laurel leaves, bark of wild cherry, &c., containing hydrocyanic acid, of removing the odour of assafœtida has long been known, and advantage taken of this property by M. Maheir, a French pharmaceutist, to remove the odour from mortars and bottles with which it came into contact; but I am unaware that the fact has ever been applied to its administration as a medicinal agent."

FARM ITEMS.

SPEEDING HORSES.—Many a good horse is spoiled by not being rough-shod in winter. It is a painful sight to see a horse travelling on an icy road with slippery shoes on—and dangerous withal.

WHITEWASH FOR OUTSIDE WORK.—Slake half a bushel of lime with boiling water, keeping it covered during the process. Strain, and add a peck of salt, dissolved in warm water; three pounds of ground rice put in boiling water, and boiled to a thin paste; half a pound of powdered Spanish whiting, and a pound of clear glue, dissolved in warm water; mix well together, and let the mixture stand several days. Put it on hot.

HEAVES—GREAT RELIEF.—Heaves, the common name for any difficulty in the breathing of a horse, is susceptible of great alleviation by attention to the character and quantity of food to be eaten by the animal, as every one knows. If a horse suffering from this disease is allowed to distend his stomach at his pleasure, with dry food entirely, and then to drink cold water, as much as he can hold, he is nearly worthless. But if his food be moistened, and he be allowed to drink a moderate quantity only at a time, the disease is much less troublesome.

A still further alleviation may be obtained from the use of balsam of fir and balsam of copaiba, 4 ozs. each; and mix with calcined magnesia sufficiently thick to make it into balls; give a middling-sized ball night and morning for a week or ten days.

HOW TO IMPROVE OUR STOCK.—It is a matter of certainty, and we never yet met a farmer who did not admit it, that stock-raising is the most important part of a farmer's business. It is the life blood of the farm. Then it is a great thing to have stock that will bring in the most money at least cost. This can only be done by improving the common native stock by the means of pure-blood male animals. These cost money, and few farmers have sufficient stock to need for their own use the entire services of such an animal. But five, eight, or ten farmers jointly, may purchase an animal, or a set of them, as bull, boar, and ram, for say $1,000, whose services will repay the cost in a single year, and raise in a few years the character of the stock in a whole township. We know of an instance where the introduction of a herd of Jersey cattle in a county in five years led to the dissemination of the stock all through it, and the increase, of course, now is in a much greater ratio than in the first five years. We know that already the butter in that particular district has shown a marked improvement, and that the storekeepers in the different villages are in consequence beginning to grade the butter. Now, this is an important thing, as a farmer who produces a superior article likes to know that he gets a higher price than is brought by a lardy, greasy one, and that all the butter from various dairies is not dumped together. Again, in hogs an improvement is much needed. We want an early maturing pig that does not need to be wintered over, and that can be made into pork any time after three or four months. An Essex or Berkshire boar would bring such stock, and five farmers might jointly secure a very choice one, that each one singly would not be warranted in purchasing. It is unnecessary to carry this subject further. This is the time to think and act upon it, and the season is approaching when it might be carried into operation.

GEMS OF THOUGHT.

THE spirit of truth dwelleth in meekness.

WITH the humble there is perpetual peace.

IT is not easy to love those we do not esteem.

ZENO, of all virtues, made his choice of silence.

To feign a virtue is to have its opposite vice.

KIND feelings are benefits as much as kind deeds.

THE man that possesses good health is always rich.

A QUAINT old Scotch proverb runs thus: "An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy."

SEE the sack open before you buy what is in it; for he who trades in the dark asks to be cheated.

MANY a man dreads throwing away his life at once, who shrinks not from throwing it away piecemeal.

IT is difficult for revenge to act without exciting suspicion, as for a rattle-snake to stir without making a noise.

MEN make themselves ridiculous, not so much by the qualities they have, as by the affectation of those which they have not.

THE greater the difficulty the more glory in surmounting it. Skilful pilotes gain their reputation from storms and tempests.

WE should remember that it is quite as much a part of friendship to be delicate in its demands, as to be ample in its performances.

WHEN you see a man with a good deal of religion displayed in his shop window, you may depend upon it he keeps a very small stock of it within.

IT is a great blunder in the pursuit of happiness not to know that we have got it; that is, not to be content with a reasonable and possible measure of it.

A DEVOUT man can never be called unfortunate. In the most trying circumstances, he has within his breast a source of inexhaustible consolation.

TRUTH can hardly be expected to adapt itself to the crooked policy and wily sinuosities of wordly affairs; for truth, like light, travels only in straight lines.

NONE are so fond of secrets as those who do not mean to keep them; such persons covet secrets as a spendthrift does money for the purpose of circulation. —Colton.

IDLENESS is the nursery of crime. It is that prolific germ of which all rank and poisonous vices are the fruits. It is the field where "the enemy sows tares while men sleep."

WIT AND HUMOUR.

TOWN pumps—local editors.

CINCINNATI stationary—Pig-pen.

A green grocer—one who trusts.

THE board of health—a plain diet.

HOUSEFELLOWS—Bricklayers' laborers.

THE woman's club—The broomstick.

THE "Pacific mails"—Quiet husbands.

LIGHT employment—Building castles in the air.

DOMESTIC magazines—Wives how blow up their husbands.

A JOINT AFFAIR WITH BUT A SINGLE PARTY TO IT.—Rheumatism.

WHEN is a young lady like a knocker? When she is something to a door.

WHEN is a woman like a sparrow?—When she's in earnest (in her nest).

WHICH officer in a regiment would you expect to be the most chicken-hearted?—The (h) ensign.

WHY are birds melancholy in the morning? Because their little bills are all over dew.

"THIS is the *back* me of civilisation, I suppose," as the tree in the Far West said of the woodman's axe.

ANOTHER poor girl has died in Virginia from the use of tobacco, at the age of 100. She was an orphan.

THE want alike of the medical student and young journalist—a subject—only one wants a dead one and the other a "live" one.

A RUTLAND barber has just bought a pound and a half of lead for $75. He procured it through a New York counterfeit money firm.

AN Illinois postmaster gives notice as follows: After this date, everybody must lick their own postage stamps, for my tongue's given out.

A FOREIGN medical journal remarks that the most warlike nation of modern times is vaccination, because it's always in arms. We always thought, on the contrary, that it was a cow-ardly affair.

"GOOD morning," said a printer in search of female compositors. "Have you any daughters who would make good type-setters?" "No, but I have a wife who would make a fine devil," said the monster.

A MAN in Jersey City, who had ravished a kiss from a school girl, was lined by the magistrate, horse-whipped by the big brother, and scratched bad-headed by his own wife. And it was not much of a kiss after all.

THE LATEST OUTRAGE.—Our sanctum was invaded yesterday by a reckless man, who perpetrated the following: "If a small pitcher could cry, what color would the small pitcher stain the handkerchief with which it wiped its eyes? *Answer*—Grey, because 'little pitchers have great ears'"—*Chicago Tribune.*

ROGERS used to tell the following story, to which he gave considerable effect: "An Englishman and a Frenchman had to fight a duel. That they might have the better chance of missing one another, they were to fight in a dark room. The Englishman fired up the chimney, and, by Jove! he brought down the Frenchman! When I tell this story in Paris," observed Rogers, "I put the Englishman up the chimney."

A LITTLE five years-old was being instructed in morals by his grandmother. The old lady told him that all such terms as "by golly," "by jingo," "by thunder," etc., were only little oaths, and but little better than other profanities. In fact, she said, he could tell a profane oath by the prefix "by." All such were oaths. "Well, then, grandmother," said the little hopeful, "is 'by telegraph,' which I see in the newspapers, swearing?" "No," said the old lady; "that's only lying."

THE St. Louis *Times* gives the following specimen of poetry. The writer evidently "means business," and has "gone in on his nerve:"

I stood upon the ocean's briny shore,
And with a fragile reed I wrote
Upon the sand—
"Agnes! I love thee!"
The mad waves rolled by and blotted out
The fair impression.
Frail reed! cruel wave! treacherous sand!
I'll trust ye no more:
But with giant hand I'll pluck
From Norway's frozen shore
Her tallest pine, and dip its top
Into the crater of Vesuvius.
And upon the high and burnished heavens I'll write—
"Agnes! I love thee!"
And I would like to see any
Dog-goned wave wash that out.

THE Houston (Texas) *Telegraph* gives the following humorous yearly statement, after the manner of insurance companies, banking institutions, charitable associations, State and county organizations, of what its editor has been doing for the past year:

Report.	*Times.*
Been asked to drink	11,393
Drank	11,392
Requested to retract	416
Didn't retract	416
Invited to parties, presentations, receptions, etc., etc., by people fishing for puffs	3,323
Took the hint	33
Didn't take the hint	3,300
Threatened to be whipped	174
Been whipped	0
Whipped the other fellow	4
Didn't come to time	170
Been promised bottles of champagne, whisky, gin, bitters, rum, boxes of cigars, etc., if we would go after them	3,650
Been after them	1
Going again	0
Been asked "What's the news?"	300,000
Told	13
Didn't know	200,000
Lied about it	99,987

THE HEARTHSTONE SPHINX.

88. ANAGRAM.

(*The italicised words give the name of a famous play.*)

Artful Bell to the card-room dispatch'd grandmamma,
And in similar fashion got rid of papa:
Then sly puss, 'hind the curtain was secretly kiss'd,
While grannie was playing *her tenth game of whist!*

A. H. B.

89. ENIGMA.

Very oft in the shop of the chemist I'm seen,
And blazing with heat in the furnace have been;
Whenever I speak it is with a loud roar.
The doctor's boy bumps me about very sore;
His filthy concoctions pollute me inside,
And had I been mortal, one this should have died.
What though I am stone dead, I'm proud of my birth;
I'm Adam-like, form'd from the dust of the Earth.
I am often united, and well known to stick
To my partner, who is a rosy-cheek'd brick.
Together we strengthen both cottage and hall
And miles off I've knock'd down an enemy's wall.

PROTEUS.

90. CHARADE.

Divide the Earth, withdraw one-fifth,
My *first* you then will see;
From *second* Abraham went forth;
(*Its* language was Chaldee.)

Oh, had I the immortal pen
Of Tennyson the great!
The deeds of him, my wondrous *whole*,
Right well I could relate.

BETSY HAMMON.

91. RHEBUS.

A fish found chiefly in ponds; a well-known heathen god; what would not be pleasant at sea; what we have to pay if we take a drive; a town in Prussia, on the Oder; and a flowing back. The initials and finals will give two brothers celebrated in heathen mythology.

GROUSE.

ANSWERS TO CHARADES, &c., IN No. 52.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.—Defer not till to-morrow to be wise.

83.—ANAGRAMS ON COMPOSERS.—1. Jacques Offenbach. 2. Charles Gounod. 3. Carl Maria Von Weber. 4. Giacomo Meyerbeer.

84.—CHARADE: Candle-stick.

85.—GEOGRAPHICAL REBUS: SomersetT; AvA; LangrodoO; LooI; UtrechT; SaloU; TexaS.—SALLUST.—TACITUS.

86.—CHARACTER PUZZLE.—POTATOR.

84 and 86 answered correctly by Frits.