

place in the new experiments for promoting tation by electric rods and wires. In the try I have always observed that these rings e their appearance after thunders' storms; and never yet met with a better solution of the phenomenon than that which accident afforded to as above related. Nor have I ever seen any who had seen a fungus, or fungi, spring up, arising to radiate from it. But I have observed these rings to last for two or three years, and large, in the course of time, which is not sufficient to establish the truth of the mere theory, these rings are caused by spawm that radiates from a common centre.—*Gardners' Chronicle*.

**INFLUENCE OF ELECTRICITY.**—The injurious effect of a sudden increase of electricity is very clearly marked upon the young of all animals, a hurtful influence being in proportion to the thickness of the victim. Eggs are peculiarly susceptible to the influence of electricity, and, even the chick is partially matured, are often killed by a passing thunderstorm. In climates where thunderstorms are frequent and violent, the lands which are inhabited by the hum-birds, it is needful that the eggs should be protected from the deadly influence, and we accordingly find that the nests are oval or rounded apex, and are made of substances which are conductors of electricity.—*Roughledge's Illustrated Natural History*.

**AS WITH POTATOES.**—In a letter in the *Agricultural Gazette*, an English paper states that glass peas inserted into each piece of potato planted, will produce a large crop of peas, and to check disease in the potato. It is likewise with some to plant peas with potatoes.

The potato stems answer a good purpose as pea vines to run upon.

**SEVENTY HUNDRED YEARS AGO.**—In the last of the eighteenth century appeared, nearly the same time, the edicts of Turgot for the emancipation of labor, and the book of Adam Smith on the nature and the cause of wealth. Early in the same epoch, Lavoisier laid the foundation of the discoveries which were to revolutionize chemistry; Watt took his first patent for the perfection of the steam engine, and Arkwright obtained a patent for spinning by rolls. These events contain the germ of the principle. The means adopted by modern industry in chemistry gave birth to numerous industrial processes; the perfected steam engine and a motive force applicable to the most complicated mechanisms; mechanical spinning and weaving replaced the ancient mode of manufactures and multiplied the production of goods; labor; finally, the ideas until that time which gave place to notions more just and exact on the nature of wealth and on the means of developing it.

**FARMERS AND THE WAR.**—This country has been able to support a very large number of men through an indefinite period of

time if the peaceful industry of the community was directed to this end. It would simply be necessary to divert the labors of those who are now engaged in making superfluous luxuries to the production of food and clothing. This diversion of labor will be gradually effected by a decline in the price of luxuries and an advance in those of the necessaries of life. This already begins to be felt; while works of art, books, jewelry, &c., are of a very slow sale, the coarser styles of woollen cloths and satinet have advanced some 30 per cent in price in such colors as are adapted for military purposes. If the community is intelligent, they will anticipate this change in the market demand for articles, and will, by a prudent forecast, save us from a scarcity of products absolutely essential to existence. This applies with especial force to farmers. Let them sow their seeds with perfect confidence that there will be a certain demand for their crops, which will bring better prices than in preceding years. Above all things, let us not have the horrors of famine added to the trials of war.—*Scientific American*.

### Editorial Notices, &c.

THE BRITISH REVIEWS FOR JANUARY, 1862.—*Republished by L. Scott & Co., 51 Gold St., New York.*

We have received through Mr. Rowsell, Bookseller of this city, copies of the American Edition of the *Quarterly, Edinburgh, Westminster, & North British Reviews*, commencing the volumes of the present year; also *Blackwood's Magazine* for January and February; for which we take this opportunity of thanking the attentive and enterprising publishers. Referring to the influence of these Reprints on the American mind one of their own critics well observes:—

"The best talent in England is employed upon them, and although the circulation of some of them, is actually less in Great Britain than in the United States, they are to a certain extent the organs of the advanced opinions within their several spheres of influence, corresponding in some degree with the gradations of American sentiment in religion, philosophy, and statesmanship. This fact accounts in some measure for the daily increasing circulation of the British reprints in the United States, and the estimation in which they are held in enlightened and educated circles here. They likewise sound a depth of profound thought comparatively unknown to our literature, and pursue abstract and practical investigations to a point seldom attempted by American critics and reviewers. This quality renders them the more valuable to us, as study which develops the radical diversity in the mental methods of John Bull and Brother Jonathan