

A Spring Picture.

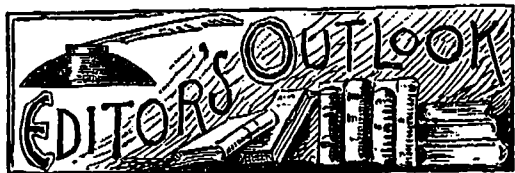
Past is the winter drear and cold,
And all the trees burst forth with gems—
Buds purple, red, and brown, and gold,
Upon their leafless stems.

The primrose lifts its starry crown
In woodland ways and sheltered nooks;
And where the tall elms fringe the down,
Caw busily the rooks.

The sheep pass peacefully along,
Cropping the herbage young and sweet;
And wild birds fill the air with song,
Rejoiced the Spring to meet.

Oh! welcome, Springtime, when the earth
Puts on anew her garb of life,
And with glad songs of hope and mirth
The hearts of men are rife.

Oh! may they ne'er by chance forget
The one great Giver of Spring days,
But daily recognize their debt
With loving songs of praise.



A TALE OF SUFFERING.

MR. FRED V. MASSEY'S illness, to which reference has been made in these columns from time to time, continues serious and sad. We very much regret we cannot report any change for the better. On the contrary, since last we wrote he has been so very low that death seemed imminent. He had a violent attack of nervousness, so severe that it became necessary to hold him in bed. From this he rallied, and at this writing he remains much the same, though there are strong evidences of gradual decline. For eighteen weary weeks Mr. Fred has lain upon a bed of affliction, from which he has not risen for a single hour. There has been scarcely a day without some renewed or special feature of suffering. Next to lung trouble the hardest thing to counteract has been extreme nervousness, which has been present from the beginning—the disease having fastened upon him when he was utterly prostrated by excessive study. He cannot be said to be living, but merely existing on the support given him by the hypodermic injections of morphine. For these long months the sick room has presented a scene of battle for life, until a surrender is found inevitable. Though the body lies imprisoned, all that is immortal has won a grand and decisive victory. Friends and associates cling to that which is mortal, but the spirit pants for release. When we think of the vigor, energies, and usefulness of the past, and look at the pallid face, emaciated form, and prolonged sufferings, we turn away with quivering lips and tearful eyes. We must not murmur but wait the interpretation of the Divine.

Ere another issue of the ILLUSTRATED finds its way to our readers, we fear our bleeding hearts will have to take up the refrain—

"O, for the touch of a vanished hand
And the sound of a voice that is still."

THE Chicago papers have recently been discussing the question as to whether the flesh of cattle affected with lump-jaw (actinomycosis) is fit for food. The Illinois Live Stock commission took the matter up and reported that the disease is contagious, and that not only is the disease communicable from animal to animal, but from animal to man. The Commission insisted that all animals infected with the

disease should be killed, and the carcasses not used for food. No part of such animals can be considered safe, and therefore no part is fit for food, for, should the part eaten by man be diseased, and the disease take hold upon the internal organs of the man, that person is doomed.

Our farmers would do well, therefore, to fight shy of lumpy-jawed cattle.

THE Ontario Legislature has passed a bill respecting the dog tax, which, however, does not come into force until January 1st, 1891. A tax of \$1 on dogs and \$2 on bitches is imposed. One of the most interesting provisions of the bill is the following: "Any person may kill any dog which he sees pursuing, worrying, or wounding any sheep or lamb, or which he finds straying on any farm, unless such dog is securely muzzled, or accompanied by and under control of the owner or other person in charge, or which is found molesting or attacking any person or conveyance on the public highway."

EVERY one knows that the air of a close room in which many persons are sitting becomes bad, and that it is injurious. For a long time the injurious effects have been attributed to carbonic gas, but recent experiments, conducted by capable observers, would seem to show that this is an error. It has been found that air containing very large amounts of pure carbonic acid gas can be breathed with absolute impunity, but that air spoiled by the breathing of human beings contains small quantities of one or more very poisonous substances, to which a learned French professor has given the name of anthroptoxine, or human poison. To this alone is due the noxiousness of the air in unventilated rooms. Recent experiments of French scientists show that this poison comes from the lungs. But the fact that the poison has been named, and that we know just where it comes from, doesn't make it any more wholesome.

It is a disappointment to us, as it will no doubt be to those of our readers who took part in the four Cash Prize Competitions, that we are unable in this issue to announce the names of the winners. The fact is there have been so many competitors, in at least three of the competitions, who have run each other so close in point of merit that it is a difficult matter to decide which is entitled to first or second place. This is particularly so in regard to the essays on "Good Housekeeping." We are exceedingly gratified to find so many ladies taking such a lively interest in this subject. The majority of the essays are really most meritorious and the lady readers of the ILLUSTRATED who did not compete will for some months have the pleasure of perusing some trenchant and valuable remarks on a subject dear to the heart of every good housekeeper. We will comment further on the different competitions when we announce the prize winners in our next issue, which will also contain the first prize essay on "Good Housekeeping" and "Can our present Methods of Farming be improved upon, and if so, How?" and the first prize plans for a general purpose Farm Barn and Poultry House.

SEVERAL School Boards in England believing that physical exercise is necessary to a healthy development of the mind as well as the body have recently decided to erect swimming baths for the benefit of the scholars and the Education department has approved of the project. In New Zealand and some parts of Australia a similar system has been in vogue for years and we see no good reason why it should not be introduced by the School Boards in the Dominion wherever it is practicable. Swimming, as a form of gymnastic movement, and an aid to cleanliness, is alike valuable, and as a safeguard against the risk of drowning it is simply indispensable. It is, further, most easy to learn, and once learned is never forgotten. The London (Eng.) *Lancet* referring to the decision of the English School Boards says: "Into the financial ethics of this new departure we need not enter. In many districts, happily, no such extensive reform would be required in order to secure the end in view. Public baths

are to be found in many inland towns, and might at set times be utilized by the school children. For others educated at the coast no such provision is required. What is in every case necessary is that swimming be recognized in the regular educational course, and taught by competent persons (who might hold some other office besides) to every boy and girl."

THE report of the Dominion Minister of Agriculture on the subject of immigration states that the total number of settlers in Canada during last year was 91,600 against 88,776 the previous year. There was a decided decline in the immigrants via the St. Lawrence, in all not less than about one-third, the total number of immigrant arrivals by that route having been 27,771, the other entries being at Montreal from United States ports and via the Suspension Bridge, of immigrants who had come by the New York steamship lines. A significant feature of the report is the large number of arrivals entered with settlers' goods from the United States, by the customs houses along the whole frontier. The total number of these, as reported, was 38,617, the largest number of such settlers ever reported. Of these arrivals the number of returned Canadians was 25,521, and of United States citizens 4,023. The value of effects brought by the immigrants thus reported was \$1,517,798. The total number of immigrants reported to have gone to Manitoba and the North-West during the year was 26,809. The character of the immigration is reported to have been of a very superior kind. Extraordinary efforts are to be made this year to bring a large influx of immigrants into Manitoba and the North-West.

ALTHOUGH manual training for school children has so far received very little attention in the Dominion it is quite the reverse in the United States. In fact it has been carried to such an extent there that some people think it is rapidly developing into a fad. There is not the slightest doubt that manual training is of special value to, at least, two classes of children: Those who have but little capacity for mental work on the lines of literary culture, and the very nervous but bright children who have much spontaneous thought and are soon exhausted by ordinary lesson work. In the case of nervous, irritable children, quick in mental action, spontaneous activity of the brain is shown by the large amount of spontaneous activity they exhibit. On the intellectual side activity is often so great as to cause exhaustion; the children do a vast amount of talking and questioning, imagining, and talking and thinking to themselves. For these manual training is peculiarly suited; they need cultivation of the faculty of impression without the mere raising of thoughts and their spontaneous activity needs control by co-ordinate action rather than stimulation to further activity by too much "books." In the department of Manual Training the usual course of instruction for boys is drawing, carpentry, wood-turning, pattern-making, clay-modeling and wood-carving; for girls it is cooking, cutting, fitting, and making of garments, household decoration, millinery etc. The girls, however, join the boys in drawing, carpentry, clay modeling, and wood-carving. In the training for both boys and girls the cost of materials and accommodation is shown to be light until it comes to the introduction of machinery and steam power, when it counts up very fast. The Committee on Manual Training in the New York Public Schools, however, hold the opinion that "while wood-turning and some metal work are essential to complete elementary work-shop instruction the principal benefits of such instruction may be obtained through carpenter-work and joinery alone."

A SUB-COMMITTEE of the Ways and Means Committee of the United States Congress has prepared a report for submission to the whole Committee increasing the duties almost to the prohibitive point on Canadian farm products. There is considerable opposition to the report even among members of Congress, and it is probable that before it is finally disposed of, the proposed increases will be materially reduced. The increased duties strike all round; at Ontario in the matter of horses, barley and apples, at Quebec and New Brunswick on horses and hay, and at Nova Scotia and Prince Edward