

HINTS FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

To render shoes waterproof, warm a little beeswax and mutton suet until it is liquid, and rub some of it slightly over the edges of the sole, where the stitches are.

If you put soda in the water with which you are to wash windows, you will find that finger-marks, putty stains, etc., will be much more easily removed than if clear water alone is used.

If you dip your broom in clean, hot suds, once a week, then shake it until it is almost dry, and then hang it up, or stand it with the handle down, it will last twice as long as it would without this operation.

For a damp closet or cupboard, which is liable to cause mildew, place in it a saucer full of quicklime, and it will not only absorb all apparent dampness, but sweeten and disinfect the place. Renew the lime once in a fortnight, or as often as it becomes slaked.

COFFEE-grounds make a highly successful filling for a pin-cushion. They must be dried perfectly before using. Put them in a bag and hang them behind the kitchen stove until you have enough that are dry to fill the cushion. They do not gather moisture, and consequently do not rust the needle.

To protect the ironing boards from dust, take two paper flour sacks, cut the bottom off from one, and paste this one to the top of the other, to make the required length; when done slip this over the board. The outer covering of the board need not be taken off after using, if this care is taken, and much time is saved.

A GOOD way to regulate a child's stomach and bowels is to give him a little bowl of oatmeal and milk every day for breakfast or dinner; see that it is well salted, as salt promotes digestion. The ailments of a child who is in a normal condition almost always proceed from the stomach, and much may be done for our children by paying some attention to their diet and so avoid giving medicine as much as possible.

FRESH air is important. The house should be well ventilated at all times, and in warm days thrown open, for a time, to give all the air possible. The matter of ventilation is quite important, and the best mode is yet to be found. A good way is to have openings at, or near the top of the room, and to keep some of them open, more or less, at all times. When the wind blows hard, causing a strong draft through the building, those openings to the wind-ward side should be closed tight.

PICKLED CABBAGE.—The following is an excellent way of pickling cabbage: The cabbage to be sliced in very thin shreds and put into a large stone jar; strew among it a pennyworth of bruised cochineal to colour it. Take two ounces of mustard seed, one ounce of whole black pepper, two ounces of unbleached ginger and a few cloves. Cut the ginger up in small pieces and bruise the pepper a little. Divide the spice into two portions, which tie up in two muslin bags, putting one at the bottom and the other at the top of the jar. Do not boil it at all.

THE DECLINING WHEAT CROP.

Already, in so young a State as Minnesota, with its big bonanza farms, and immense crops, the lessened yield of wheat excites concern, as it well may. The United States Department of Agriculture, not long since, published a special report on the condition and needs of wheat culture in the North-West, prepared by Hon. C. H. Andrew, of St. Paul. It is the old story of soil-exhaustion by a too extensive grain cropping without manure. Deterioration of seed is also considered, no doubt correctly, to have something to do with the undesirable result. The *Pioneer Press* gives the pith of Mr. Andrews' report in the following brief statement, which contains important lessons for wheat-growers everywhere, and which those of the Canadian North-West will do well to heed in time:

"First, the exhaustion of the alkali in the soil, either by cultivation or otherwise. Up to the time when the country began to be settled, annual prairie fires spread over it, depositing each year a layer of ashes on the surface. The result was that a large amount of alkali was at length left upon the soil, which, as we all know, is an important factor in wheat growing. In cultivated fields this alkali has been exhausted, while in the uncultivated section the prevention of fires has stopped the deposit, and that which was in the soil, either by evaporation or washing, has largely been eliminated from it. Hence, even in old sections of the State, where their are prairies which have never been broken up, the virgin soil if put to wheat fails to show the returns in yield of other years.

"Another cause is the deterioration of seed. The reports of the different ones as published in the work before us indicates that Lost Nation and other varieties seem to better at first than the old Scotch Fife; but in a few years the yield is not as large even as the latter. This plainly shows a loss of vitality and calls for a change of seed. With our Scotch Fife, after twenty-five years of constant sowing without any renewal, could it be expected that it would have all the strength and vigour it once had? Supposing, then, we practise a rotation of crops; supposing we try to restore the alkali to the soil by the liberal use of manures, and where practicable by spreading the straw over the surface and burning it; supposing, also, we renew our seed by sending to the north of some outside section for it. By these means we certainly would take a long step in the direction of right farming, and settle the status of wheat growing in the North-West forever."

SALTING STOCK.

The fault is one usually of underfeeding salt rather than giving an excess. Fed upon hay, straw, and grain diet a grown animal will consume an ounce of salt daily without injury, but rather benefit. A little salt daily is far better than to have it as an extra feed once a week or at longer intervals. A farmer of well-informed ways always feeds salt with each ration of meals summer and winter, whether fed once or twice per day, of course giving but a sprinkling of salt with the meal.

If grain is not fed the salt may be mixed with sulphur, the two combined being one of

the best remedial agents for the prevention of vermin, besides it is a good promoter of digestion and pure blood, two elements of success in feeding cattle.

THERE are many more profitable crops than those usually grown by farmers, and it is within the power of any farmer, young or old, to learn the secrets for their successful production. Young men at home on the farm are always glad to go into new things, and to a reasonable extent this should be encouraged. In thousands of cases it will save to farm life the active, enterprising young man, who, if kept in the unvarying round of routine drudgery, would drift into other and perhaps to the youthful mind more congenial pursuits.

HORTICULTURE seems to be at a discount here in the North-West. Much is said, and truthfully enough, about the wonderful growth of Winnipeg, but there are few indications of it, in the way of vegetables, fruits and flowers. For a city of its size, there is less of horticultural taste and industry here than we ever remember to have noticed in the course of our travels. Few dwellings can boast of anything in the shape of a garden. Lawns are scarce. Tree-planting has received very little attention. It is a rare thing to see house plants in anybody's window. A button-hole bouquet is a phenomenon. Vegetables, with almost the sole exception of potatoes, are scarce and dear. Fruit is costly, being all of it imported. There is hardly an evergreen to be seen anywhere. To all this it will be said that land is too valuable to be devoted to gardening, and that people are too busy to give any attention to rural ornament, or the culture of lettuce and radishes. Yet it is undeniable that there are untilled areas quite large enough to make pleasant and useful little gardens, door-yards in which there is room for a multitude of shrubs and flowers, while our busiest people might find time enough to do something in these directions, if the disposition were not wanting.—*North-West Farmer*.

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