

the ignorance of many painters in compounding colours. They try for drab, and get a brown; they attempt a straw color and get a downright yellow.

A series of pretty colors for houses can be made by putting into white lead a small quantity of umber, ground in oil. By varying the quantity, any number of shades of drab may be obtained. In compounding this, care is required not to put in too much of the umber. The way is to use a little at a time, till the required shade is formed. With raw umber, a cold drab is obtained; with burnt umber, a warm one may be had. A straw color is formed by adding a little chrome yellow to white lead, and the same rule is to be observed.—*Prairie Farmer*.

**SALTING ASPARAGUS BEDS.**—My beds are situated on limestone land, but the soil is deep and rich. The beds have never been raised more than eighteen inches or two feet from the level (not being considered necessary.) They are at least twenty or twenty-one years old, and every year they have been gradually declining, but whether from bad management or age I cannot determine. About the end of January or beginning of February, the weather being tolerably mild for the season, I raked the soil off the beds with a small hand-rake until I had sufficiently bared them without hurting the plants. I then laid one and a half inch or two inches of rich stable manure over them, and afterwards completed the beds with soil from the trenches which had been thrown back. Next day I watered with salt and water (refuse salt, 2d. per stone) the weather being mild and dry, and in wet weather I sprinkled them over with dry refuse salt, which the rain most effectually washed in. The effect was more expeditious than I had anticipated. About the end of March I cut a tolerably good dish, very much larger and more delicate than I have had during the last two years, and on Tuesday, June 4, I had cut my eighth dish. They now seem disposed to run to seed, so I have ceased cutting. The beds I have are only seventeen feet long by four feet broad, but they occupy so favourable a situation that they should be more productive than they are (with proper management).—*John T. Y., Parkhead*.

**NOTES ON HYBRIDISING, AND MISCELLANEOUS AGRICULTURAL MEMORANDA.**—By hybridising we anticipate a change in the whole face of cultivated plants; probably a few years may thus produce new races of trees, esculents, corn, and forage plan is of as much (if not more) importance as any already known. The effect is produced by applying the pollen of one flower to the stigma of another. The Dean of Manchester, the most eminent man in his way, always endeavours to force the female parent, so as to be forwarder than others of the same kind. Potato blossoms should be taken off. Turnip seed should be drilled with about 12 times its bulk of powdered charcoal. Chemistry will probably do more for agriculture than it has done for other arts and manufactures. Sulphate of lime is frequently

the cause of hardness in water. Spade culture should be adopted. One horse consumes what would supply a family of seven.—Y. F. A.—*The Irish Farmers' Gazette*.

### SCIENTIFIC MEMORANDA.

It has long been alledged that the aurora borealis has the effect of producing a certain direction of wind, and colored aurora borealis is always indicative of a change of existing weather.

The mean annual fall of rain on the surface of the globe has been taken at 34 inches, which, taking the area of its surface, 196,815,658 square miles, would amount (at 1,000 ozs to the cubic foot) to 431,033,808,959,644 tons per annum.

It is a fact undeniably proved that if sheep are allowed free access to salt, they will never be subject to the disease called the "rot."

Wooden posts or stakes driven under salt vats, owing to the preserving quality of the salt, are practically indestructible. It would be very easy to adapt this hint to the preservation of fence, garden posts, &c., as they do in Syracuse.

The elastic force of steam is the moving agent of the machinery attached to an engine, and therefore to keep the velocity constant, the supply of steam must be regulated to the resistance to be overcome.

Twenty-seven inches of snow give three inches of water when melted, and the water thus obtained is found to contain ammonia which is the cause of its great softness.

A large species of the star-fish possesses the power of breaking itself into fragments under the influence of terror, rage, or despair.

When we look at the moon through a telescope which magnifies 200 times, we behold the objects on its lunar surface in the same manner as if we were standing at a point 238,800 miles from the earth in the direction of the moon, or only twelve hundred miles from that orb, reckoning its distance to be 240,000 miles.

A cement composed of 4 parts of pure chalk and 5½ parts of fresh blue alluvial clay, will be found cheaper than any other as an hydraulic mortar.

A vessel moving through the water communicates a motion to the same, and this quantity of motion is equal to that which is lost by the moving vessel.

**THE WORLD.**—Many an unwise parent labours hard and lives sparingly all his life for the purpose of leaving enough to give his children a start in the world, as it is called. Setting a young man afloat by money left him by his relatives, is like tying bladders under the arms of one who cannot swim: ten chances to one he will lose his bladders, and go to the bottom. Teach him to swim, and he will never need the bladders. Give your child a sound education, and you have done enough for him. See to it that his morals are pure, his mind cultivated, and his whole nature made subservient to the laws which govern man, and you have given what will be of more value than the wealth of the Indies.