## Trapping the Skunk.

The skunk has a wide acquaintance and needs no introduction. But he is more widely than favorably known for it may truly be said he is in bad odor with most people. He is often a visitor and pensioner where he is not wanted: and to get rid of him is not always a pleasant task, nor fruitful of agreeable remembrances. How best to do it? That's the question.

I will tell how I and my neighbors did it, easily and effectually. We trapped them, using a common steel trap effectually. We trapped them, using a common steel trap as light as will securely hold them. It is easy enough to get them into a trap, but to get them out is the difficulty. We tied the trap to the end of a long, light pole before setting it, and then made sure that, after being caught, they could not crawl into a hole or under something so that they must be pulled out. On finding one in the trap, we gently carried him, the trap still attached to the pole, and keeping the length of the pole between us, to a pond or puddle of as well as down, and do thes. water deep enough to drown him, wherem we immersed skunk and trap.

The animal knows the range of his battery, and is not likely to waste his ammunition-will not unless you approach him suddenly, threateningly, so as to frighten him. But you must keep beyond his reach; the pole must be long enough for this—not much less than 15 feet. When one or more skunks get under an out-kitchen or other out-building, by a little patient management they can be caught in this way. Wherever they are they must cat; and they will come forth to seek food sooner or later. Don't worry if they are under your bedroom a week before you can catch them; they will do no huit there. If you have no dog they may conclude to take up their abode there. But they are no worse than the same number of old rats, and are easier to trap. But you must manage rightly and keep your temper. I have known them to be dragged a long way while in the trap, by a rope, without any smell. But the ground was smooth; it was gently done, and the rope was long enough. One of these conditions wanting, results would have been different.—Cor. A. Y. Tribure. be long enough for this -not much less than 15 feet.

## The Uses of Charcoal.

I lately noticed in your paper a good description of the way to burn charcoal. I will give some of its uses to the farmer, from experience. By keeping charcoal in the hog pen, there will be but little odor or disagreeable smell, such as is usual. The hogs appear to thrive better and such as is usual. The hogs appear to thrive better and faster on less food, than in a strong-smelling sty. They will consume quite a quantity, which undoubtedly does them good. Some should be powdered, and some left in chunks: the powdered absorbs the wet, and the hogs will eat the lumps as they desire it. The refuse makes a most excellent manure for onions or any vegetables. By putting a small quantity in the horse stable every day, under the horse, it will absorb the wet, and keep the stable perfectly sweet and wholesome. As it is removed from the stable keep it under shelter, dry it and sow it on the meadows: the increase in the crop will pay for the trouble.

Cow stables will receive the same benefit and produce the same results. It is also invaluable in the poultry house, in keeping it wholesome for the fowls, and making a most valuable manure. The fowls will consume a part of it, and are not so liable to disease. It is also very beneficial in the sheep pens or yards. By putting a bushel or so of the powdered charcoal down the water closet, it will remove the disagreeable smell which generally attends such places, and will remove the great objection there is to cleaning them out.

When charcoal is powdered and a little dropped in a potato hill when planted, it will double the crop, and will improve the quality beyond expectation. An objection to it is that it is black, and will blacken any person who handles it. I have powdered it by pounding it on the barn floor, and also by putting through an old eader mill, but it is undoubtedly dirty work any way you can fix it. But "he that would catch fish must not numd getting wet."—Cor. Country Gentleman. faster on less food, than in a strong-smelling sty. They

-Cor. Country Gentleman.

## Length of Roots.

Prof. W. J. Beal of the Michigan Agricultural College publishes the following interesting facts, mostly the result of his own examinations, in relation to the length of roots in plants and trees:

The soil has much to do with the length and number of roots. In light, poor soil, I find roots of June grass four feet below the surface. People are apt to under-estimate the length, amount and importance of the roots of the finer grasses, wheat, oats, &c. Some roots of clover and Indian corn are large enough to be seen by every one on slight examination. A young wheat plant, when pulled up, only shows a small part of its roots. They go down often four to six feet. It needs very careful examination

to show that clover and Indian corn have any more weight of roots than June grass. They probably do not contain

The roots of a two-year-old peach tree in light soil were found seven feet four inches long. In a dry, light soil, this season, we pulled up one paremp three feet long, and another three and a half feet long, small roots even still

The noted buffalo grass on the dry western prairies, is described in the agricultural reports at Washington as having very short roots; but Mr. Felker, one of our college students, found they went down seven feet.

The roots grow best where the best food is to be found.

Horse Shoeina.—Murray writes: Never touch the bars, frog, sole or outer surface with a kinde or rasp. Shoe with light thin shoes that allow the sole bars and frog to be brought in contact with the ground and thus bear their due proportion of the horse's weight, use small nails, and not over five of them. Never allow the points to be driven high up in the hoof. For ordinary service in the country during the summer months use only this which protect the toe, but have the entire ground surface of the foot unprotected. unprotected.

Petrolly MOHS for Dalssix . Leather -Petroleum Perrout a Our rot. Dalests. Leather —Petroleum oils are coming into use for dressing leather, and it is stated that their use for this purpose is largely increasing. It is claimed that by the use of petroleum in may advantages are gained, among which are: that the leather can be reduced to the phable condition in or rapidly and with less cost than with pure animal oils; that the oloring of tanned leather is effected more rapidly and thoroughly than by the old process, and that the finished product is superior, both in phability and toughness. The heaver gravities of petroleum, such as parathn and steam-reducedoils, are the only ones used in this way. only ones used in this way.

A CALIFORNIA SPIDER.-What I am about to relate is A CALIFORNIA SPIDER.—What I am about to relate is nothing new to entomologists, but may be of interest to some of your readers. The California Spider, of which I am writing is one of the most ingenious of insects, and she constructs her dwelling as follows.—A hole is made in the ground six inches or more in depth, three-fourths of an inch in diameter. The wall around this hole is hardened ground six inches or more in depth, three-fourths of an inch in diameter. The wall around this hole is hardened one-half inch in thickness by some kind of cement the spider knows where to find or how to make. After this hardening process the wall is covered with cement and polished very smooth and nearly white. This is her domicile, where she rears her young family. But every one knows Cahforna has her rainy season; and a hole in the ground would soon fill with water and drown the little spiders; but mother-spider is equal to the emergency; she constructs a lol for her house, a complete trap-door, about an meh in diameter, something like a button; this is littled water tight and connected by a hinge to the top of her house, and when closed, completely protects from the rain, and hides her family from all intruders. There she dwells in safety in the prettiest spider residence I ever saw.

Let's Cocoa. - Graterel and Comforeno. —" By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a deheately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctors bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of det that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack, wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame. — Civil Scruce Gazette. Made simply with boiling water or milk.—Each packet is labelled—"James Errs & Co., Homcopathic Chemists, 48 Threadneedle Street, and 170 Piccaultly Works, Euston Road and Camden Town, London." Epps's Cocon -- Grateful and Comforting. -" By a

Manufacture of Cocoa.—We will now give an account of the process adopted by Messrs. James Epps & Co., Homeopathic Chemists, and manufacturers of dietetic articles, at their works in the Euston Road, London."—See article in Cassell's Household Guide.

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