

British Cleanings.

Hints on Furnishing.

A writer in *London Society* gives the following instructions on this subject:

"Our theory is that no one thing should catch the eye. There should be harmony throughout; and we would recommend that great attention be paid to the colour of the walls. If they, the ceiling and the carpet are well selected all other points of detail are like the finishing touches of a picture. The right tone having been attained, the rest is comparatively easy.

We have found grays, light greens, and pale mauve to work up well; and the less pattern there is in the paper the better, unless for some special reason, a chintz paper is desired. If the room faces the south, a cool gray or mauve is good; and for a north room we have seen a yellowish green answer admirably, imparting to the room an appearance of sunshine.

"As a rule, we have found it best to avoid reds, especially a dark red, which is offensively dingy.

"Blue is a dangerous colour to use. It is so apt to make a room either gaudy or cold; though we have seen it effectively used with pink to give a Pompadour look.

For carpets we incline to small inoffensive patterns and generally avoid those which are showy, as being in theory and effect bad.

"As to the arrangement of the furniture it is difficult to say much, as everything depends upon what it consists of. But we have generally found it desirable to keep the centre of the room and the space before the fire quite free, and to eschew a round table. If we must have one we prefer pushing it into some corner of the room—anywhere but in the middle.

"We once asked a lady who was conspicuous for the excellent taste she displayed in furnishing her rooms, wherein her secret lay, and she said that she invariably made it a rule never to employ any one person exclusively. She bought what she wanted wherever she could find it; and certainly the result was perfect. There was a harmony and a variety that was most pleasing."

AN IRISH GENTLEMAN parting with a lazy servant-woman, was asked, with respect to her industry, whether she was what is termed *afraid* to work. "O, not at all," said he; "not at all; she'll frequently lie down and fall asleep by the very side of it."

A FACT FOR THE BREEMASTER.—The *Scottish Farmer* relates the following: In a cottage near Evanston, Ross-shire, a bees' nest was last month found in a pair of men's drawers that had been laid aside! The little colony had established themselves in the woollen garment for winter quarters, but, like many other squatters, have been evicted.

A HEALTHY PAINSH.—Says the *Danffshire Journal*: The parish of Alva boasts of its climate as being very favourable to longevity. The climate seems to be especially favourable to feathered life. A correspondent informs us that "Mr. Pirie, blacksmith, Slacks of Tippet, has a crow 18 years old, and Mr. Anton, Clayfolds, has a goose 25 years old.

AN UNCOMMON BRAIN DISEASE.—The *Carlisle Examiner* says:—"A coroner's inquest was concluded a few days since at Carlisle, upon the body of a factory woman named Gallagher, aged 22, who died somewhat suddenly last week. It was at first suspected she had been poisoned; but a post mortem examination proved that death had been caused by apoplexy, induced by the presence of a parasite called *Cysticercus* in the left ventricle of the brain."

INTRODUCTION OF PARTRIDGES INTO NEW ZEALAND.—We (*Canterbury Times*) are glad to welcome back from England an old settler, Mr. Dunnage, who arrived here on Friday week last, making the passage from England to Timaru in eighty-eight days. Mr. Dunnage brings out with him eight partridges, all healthy, and in fine condition, which he intends to turn loose on his run. We most heartily wish him every success in the attempt to introduce such a valuable bird into this district.

SCANT MILK MEASURES.—We learn from *Dell's Messenger* that recently at the Session House, Newington Causeway, the magistrates were engaged for a long time in investigating cases of unjust weights, scales, and measures, and amongst them were several referring to measures taken from the possession of cow-keepers in the neighbourhood of Kennington, Clapham, &c. The evidence showed that the measures supposed to be half-pints were much below the standard, and many were unstamped. The defence in most

instances was, that owing to the cattle plague, the price of milk had been raised, and to meet the wants of the public, measures had been made which held less than half-a-pint. The Chairman said it was the opinion of the Bench that the cowkeepers or milk-sellers seemed to have imagined, because they had been compelled through the cattle plague, to raise the price of milk, that they might give short measures as well, but the law would not admit of such an excuse for robbing the public. Penalties in each case from £2 to £3 were inflicted, with a caution that next time the full penalties would be inflicted.

SALE OF EXTREME HORSES.—We learn from the *N. D. Agriculturist* that Mr. Miller, Beith, has purchased three first-class stallions, for exportation to Australia: "One of these, viz., Champion (better known in the west country as the Bilbirnie Horse)—a very superior animal, gainer of many prizes in England and Scotland, to the value of 250*l.*, was bought from Mr. Marshall, Howes, Annan. Another, a very excellent four years-old, winner of the 40*l.* prize at Glasgow last summer, was purchased from Mr. James Kerr, Lochend, Kilbirnie; and the third, a capital three year-old horse, named Tooraladdie, well known in the Upper Ward, from Messrs J. and W. Muir, Hardington Mains. The prices of the three amounted to 700*l.*"

HEATED FEET AFTER WALKING.—The following suggestions are made by correspondents of *The Field*: I beg to inform H. M. that soaking my feet in water, as hot as I could bear it, after every walk, soon hardened my feet and reduced the great heat in them.—*DRYASDST.*

—If H. M. will follow out my instructions, I think he will not suffer long in the way he describes. Always walk in knitted woollen socks. After walking to bathe the feet in tepid water, with one ounce of sal ammoniac to the pailful. To be quite certain that the soles of his shoes are sufficiently wide not to wrinkle the skin of his feet (the boots made by Messrs Fagg, of Pantons-street, are admirable in this respect.) I speak from experience, having at one time suffered much in the way H. M. mentions.—*FINDER.*

EARL DUDLEY AND THE GAME QUESTION.—We learn from the *Mark Lane Express* that "Earl Dudley has just made a very liberal concession in his tenantry in Worcestershire, his lordship having granted permission to them to kill the game, for their own use, on their respective farms. Hitherto the game has been reserved by his lordship for his own shooting and that of his friends; but in a circular just issued to the tenants, his lordship gives them permission to kill it on all the farms, reserving only the covers for himself and his friends. He stipulates, however, that none of the game shall be sold, but that, if there should be any surplus, after supplying the tenants and their friends, it shall be given to the poor of the parish in which it is killed."

NOVEL NEST BUILDING.—A recent writer in *Science Gossip*, relates the following:—At Shifford, a farm on the banks of the Tyne, near the Stocksfield station on the Newcastle and Carlisle railway, a pair of bluecaps built their nest in a somewhat curious place. A farm labourer who is accustomed to wash sheep in the Tyne owns a pair of old boots, which he uses for the purpose of protecting his feet during the process of sheep-washing. These boots are each year tied together and suspended on the lower branches of an ash which grows near the edge of the river. This season, on taking down his boots, he was surprised to find several eggs roll out, and that a pair of bluecaps had built their nest in one of his boots. He restored the eggs to their nest, hung up the boots without using them, and in the course of a few days a colony of young bluecaps issued from the pedal envelopes which had been this season, at least, put to a novel purpose."

A DOG PHENOMENON.—The *Aberdeen Free Press* relates this strange incident:—A collie bitch, the property of Mr. D. McIntosh, sheep farmer, Glenfinnie, Glencairn, some time ago had three or four pups. Mr. McIntosh advised his son to drown the young family, as the mother was wanted to the sheep, and he could not well spare her services on the hill any longer. The lad, glad of the job, took his live freight to a pool, wherein he drowned them, and for better security, and to prevent the mother carrying the dead carcasses home to the house, he afterwards buried them in a hole and covered them up. Now comes the extraordinary and almost incredible feature of the story. The bitch having soon missed her young, in a short time disappeared and was seen no more that evening, but she was found next morning in the outhouse, where she used to be with her progeny, and the pups that had been drowned and carefully buried, alive sucking her! The matter appears inexplicable, and only one suggestion can

be offered to account for the stubborn fact, viz., that they had not been entirely drowned, as she had supposed them to have been, and that the mother having soon after scented out the place of entombment, had dug them up and carried them home in her mouth, where by her warm and sagacious care she had revived them to life.

PEAT BOGS IN IRELAND.—We learn from a British exchange that, at a meeting of the Friends' Institute, Mr. John Gough read an essay on peat and its products, which contained the following information about the bogs of Ireland:—

"There are nearly three million acres of the surface of Ireland covered with bog; yet of this only about 1,250,000 is sufficiently deep to justify the outlay of capital in converting it into fuel on a large scale. But, besides this, there are about half-a-million acres of mountain bog where very hard black turf may be found. This bog may be profitably utilized by farmers in the neighbourhood of each; and, although it is difficult to carry the peat when made from such places, it is of so good a quality as to be worth all the cost and trouble. In the two great beds running through—one from Sligo to Howth, and the other from Wicklow to Galway—there is material enough for a period far too long to be looked forward to with fear of the supply running out, however great may be the enterprise in the utilization of the bog."

TIME TO MANURE GRASS LANDS.—A writer in the *Mark Lane Express* says:—

All sorts of opinions diverse enough are held as to the period when grass lands should be manured, some maintaining "any time" may be chosen, and graphically enough saying that, "any quantity" may be given, and that it is scarcely possible to give too much. This, of course, refers to the farm-yard manure or dung; when artificial or portable manures are used, the best time for their application is in spring. Autumn manuring with dung seems to be the most in favour, and justly so, especially if the dung is long and not easily assimilated with the crop. One great advantage—and it is not always thought of—obtained by the top-dressing of meadows with long manure in autumn is the protection or shelter yielded by it to the grass in the severe frosts of winter. Some who have paid attention to this maintain that fully one-half of the advantage obtained by autumn top-dressing of grass lands is owing to the shelter given to the plants during frosts by the comparatively bulky manure.

RECIPTS FOR KILLING FLEAS IN DOGS.—We find the following in *The Field*:—Having seen several enquiries in your journal for the best method of killing fleas, if your readers will try the following, I think they will not use any other method, for it not only kills the fleas, but cleans the dog's coat and skin:—Saturate a piece of flannel with common naphtha, well rub the dog with it, and the fleas will die instantly. For a rough-coated dog use a small brush.—*ROBERT ASHER, (Nantwich).*

—If "F. T. S." wishes an effectual remedy for fleas, let him try benzole, and I'll warrant it will kill every one before it has even time to make its will.—*H. B.*

—An old Scotch keeper many years ago gave me an infallible remedy for fleas in dogs. Rub the dog well all over with salt butter, and then wash with soft soap. I have found this answer perfectly for the last thirty years.—*DRYASDST.*

RECIPTS FOR MAKING TOMATO SAUCE.—In *The Field* of Sept. 16, "A Constant Reader" asks for a good receipt for tomato sauce. In reply E. C. H. says:—"Boil 12 lbs. of tomatoes until they come to a pulp, then strain them through a sieve, and add 1*lb.* of salt, three pints of good vinegar, 4*oz.* chillies, 4*oz.* white pepper (ground), 4*oz.* ginger, 4*oz.* allspice, 4*oz.* mace, 4*oz.* cloves, 4*oz.* garlic, 4*oz.* eschalots. Boil all together three hours, strain, and make up in small bottles."

—Another correspondent answers the question thus:—"The following receipt for tomato sauce, which has been in our family for many years, is always considered most excellent. The tomatoes are to be roasted until quite soft, without being in the least burnt; when cold the skin and core must be taken clean from the pulp. To a pint and a half of pulp put a tablespoonful of ground ginger, two spoonfuls of young onions shred very fine, a whole capsicum chopped small (or cayenne pepper), and sufficient salt to make it smart to the taste. Add a quarter of a pint of the best vinegar. When well mixed, put it into clean dry bottles. A spoonful of sweet oil should be poured into the neck of each bottle, and the mouth tied over with a piece of bladder. We always put it into rather small bottles, and, if kept in a cool place, it will be good in two years."