

hands are to be used, one at each side, and moved alternately up and down at the same time, making each hand travel half round the joint. One-third of hartshorn to two-thirds of oil make a good liniment for stiff neck and lumbago; another is an ounce of camphor rubbed down in four ounces of olive oil; and a third, called opodeldoc, is composed of three ounces of hard white soap and an ounce of camphor, put into a bottle with half a pint of spirits of wine, or other strong spirit, and as much water, and shaken from day to day till dissolved. But the best is the mustard liniment, made of "an ounce of fresh flour of mustard put into a bottle with a pint of spirits of turpentine, and shaken daily for two or three days." After this, the liquid is fit to be decanted for use; and its advantage is, that it may be made to act slightly or severely, according to the length of time it is rubbed; to tickle, prickle, or smart the patient, or take off his skin, whichever he likes.

Ointments are of use merely to protect wounds from their coverings, from the air, and from filth, and the simpler they are the better. The common dressing for a blister "consists of a quarter of an ounce of white wax, three-quarters of an ounce of spermaceti, and three ounces of olive oil, melted together." Elder-flower ointment, for anointing the face and neck when sunburnt, "is made of fresh elder-flowers stripped from the stalks, two pounds of which are simmered in an equal quantity of hog's-lard till they become crisp, after which the ointment, whilst fluid, is strained through a coarse sieve." Plasters may be bought in the roll, and spread at home with a hot knife, when the parties are far from the druggist's shop.

We now come to the operations of household surgery, beginning with bleeding and blistering. The best mode of bleeding to be adopted by an unprofessional person is by cupping, which is easily learned, although we have no room for the directions. In the absence of a proper instrument, a common cup, or a tumbler (if of a bellying shape, so much the better), may be turned down upon the part, after the air has been rarefied with lighted tow or paper. The skin rises into this, and is afterwards to be wounded with a lancet or sharp knife in half-a-dozen places. When leeches are inconveniently fastidious in their appetite, the skin may be scratched with a needle-point till the blood comes, which will generally be irresistible. A warm bread-and-water poultice, renewed every half hour, is better for encouraging the bleeding than sponging with warm water. Bleeding in the arm with a lancet is a delicate operation, owing to the neighbourhood of the great artery, and must be learned from a regular practitioner. It is, besides, in much less use than formerly after common accidents—such as a fall or a blow. The chief thing to be attended to in blistering is, that the plaster should never be suffered to remain on a child under ten years of age longer than till the skin has become well inflamed, which will be in three or four hours at most; and that if any of the disagreeable effects of blisters are feared, they may be easily avoided by covering the plaster before application with tissue paper.

The convulsion fits that so frequently carry off children are usually caused by the constitutional disturbance incidental to their cutting their teeth; and the "remedy, or rather the safeguard, against these frightful consequences

is trifling, safe, and almost certain, and consists merely in lancing the gum covering the tooth which is making its way through. Lancing the gum is very easily managed; and any intelligent person, after seeing it done once or twice, will do it very effectually. Cline taught a mother of a family to do this; and after lancing her children's gums she never lost another, at least from that cause; for, so soon as the teething symptoms appeared, she looked for the inflamed gum, lanced it, and they ceased. The operation is performed with a gum fleam, the edge of which must be placed vertically on the top of the inflamed gum, and moved along, pressing firmly at the same time till the edge of the fleam grate on the tooth, and the business is finished.

(To be Continued.)

Agriculture.

THE EDUCATION OF FARMERS.

(From the *Scientific and Practical Agriculturist*)

It has often been a matter of surprise that, in this age of improvement and progress, the education of our agricultural community should be so entirely neglected; the more so, when we consider how large and important a body our farmers constitute. For the professions, from twenty to twenty-four years of constant study from youth to manhood, are considered requisite to prepare a young man to enter even upon the threshold of either; and for the first trades, either mechanical or mercantile, the first fourteen years of his life are spent in an elementary education, while the subsequent seven are devoted to acquiring the rudiments of the pursuits selected. The farmer, on the contrary, conceives that, after his sons can hold a whip or pull a weed, one quarter of the year is quite sufficient to devote to the development of their minds, while the other three quarters are consumed in the most drudging minutiae of agriculture, and this at a period of life when impressions are most easily made; and when, if they imbibe any notions at all of the culture of the soil, it must be those of their fathers; and if these are tainted with ignorance or prejudice, the rising generation must be cursed with the same obstacles that were stumbling-blocks to the preceding.

We often hear it said, that practical experience will correct erroneous opinions formed in youth, and will supply the want of agricultural information which has not yet been acquired. And is this a fitting preparation of a young man for any pursuit, much more for one that requires the immediate and constant application of fixed and correct principles? Is it wise, is it just to the young farmer himself, first to expose him to the inculcation of the errors of an unimproved system of agriculture, and then throw him, with a half-formed mind, upon his own energies, to suffer the consequences of his mistakes, and correct them if he can? Do we find that this practical experience remedies the deficiencies of early education, and makes our farmers what they might and should be? Is not the adherence of our farming population (and we appeal to their sober judgment when we put the question) to old and erroneous practices in culture, almost proverbial? Judging from our own observation, limited to be sure as it has been, their love of the systems of