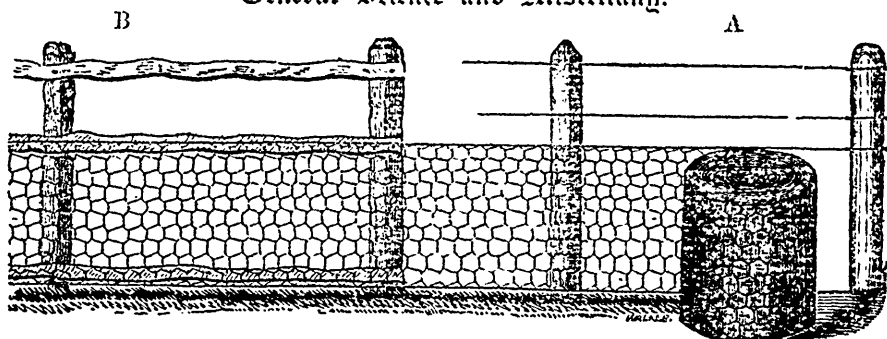


of this name. This plant when floating on its acid bed, increases by extension at the sides, and also by subdivision of its parts, and by the formation of an entire coating over the upper surface, attached only to the under or original plant, by a point near its centre. The whole genus of *Penicillium* forms upon decaying bodies, and upon fluids turning acid. This species in particular augments rapidly by the conversion of sugary fluids into vinegar. What affinity exists between this plant, and that known as "mother" of vinegar, we know not; perhaps some of our Cryptogamic friends will inform us.

This plant appears to have been known prior to 1846, for we find at that period it was cultivated as a useful curiosity in various parts of Lancashire. Its history is, however, very obscure, and little is known even of its name and native country, some asserting that it was brought from Italy, and others from the West Indies. Our own opinion is, that it is one of those fungitious products that will make their appearance in situations favorable to their production, and without the visible aid of man. However this may be, one thing is certain, that no family using vinegar ought to be without it.—*North British Agriculturist*.

General Science and Miscellany.



WIRE FENCES.

A good deal of attention has lately, in the State of New York and in some of the Western States, been directed to the subject of Wire Fences. A variety of plans has been proposed, but we have as yet seen none entirely free from objections. In most of these plans the wire is stretched along the posts with sufficient tightness to prevent the smaller animals from pressing between the wires. But it must at once be apparent that in this country at all events, the frost and wind would in a very short time heave and loosen the posts and thereby either break or slacken the wires. No fence made in this way at any reasonable expense would turn hogs, to say nothing of larger animals.

A wire *netting* for fences, has been used for some time in the old country, and appears to us to be free from many of the objections which exist in the other case. We observe that our enterprising townsman Mr. Wm. Gordon, Seed Merchant, is now manufacturing a very substantial kind of netting which will make a neat and effective fence for gardens, yards, &c.

The above cut represents a section of the fence. Figure A exhibits a roll of the web with a couple of strong wires running along the top of the posts. Figure B shows the fence with a wooden railing instead of wire. The web we believe can be furnished at 2s. 6d. per square yard. It can be made of any width. A coat of paint will of course be required to protect the wire from rust. We recommend amateur gardeners and country gentlemen who disregard a

small extra expense where taste is to be gratified, to try Mr. Gordon's fence.

A GOSSIP WITH THE LADIES.

The following remarks on a subject of great importance are from the pen of Dr. Lee, the able editor of the *Genesee Farmer*. No one can travel 10 miles through any State of the Union without meeting sad proofs of the result stated by the Doctor, whatever their opinion may be of the cause. This evil—the early decay of the female sex—does not strike the observer so forcibly in Canada. But as the country improves in wealth, and luxuries are enjoyed by greater numbers, we see unmistakable evidence of a tendency to the same mournful results in the health and appearance of the young women of the country. How far any of the causes mentioned by Dr. Lee operate to produce this evil let the reader judge and act accordingly.

The people and Legislatures of several States are talking pretty seriously about Agricultural schools and Colleges. Let us talk a little on a subject of equal importance—the education of the fair daughters of our land for the responsible duties of life. It may be said, and truly, that the females of this land are better educated than those of any other country, and that the studies pursued in our female seminaries are of a more solid character than those of similar seminaries in Europe. We grant all this; and still we say that the system of female education is defective—more than this, destructive to the health and consequent happiness of thousands,—making the "sweet home" a home of anxiety, disease and wretchedness, and filling many an untimely grave. You may consider this rather a