Crop of Wheat.—A man named Elliot, of Swanwick, near Alfreton, having experienced a considerable loss in the failure of his potatoe crop in 1845, was determined to plant a portion of his garden with wheat in the seed-time of that year, and, in order to do this, Mr. Elliot prepared his ground with as even a surface as he conveniently could. He then got a board in which he had fixed a certain number of pegs, two inches long and four inches apart: by pressing this board upon the surface of the ground, every peg made a hole, in which he put one grain of wheat. He then covered it over, and such a piece of wheat was never seen in this country before. The whole has recently been threshed up, and he had the astonishing quantity of one load and half-a-peck from one pint of seed.—*Derby Reporter.*

Chalk and Coal Fires.—The practical utility of chalk as an article of fuel has been tested within the last fortnight, according to a Salisbury paper, and with the most satistactory results. Surrounded with coal, it gives a strong heat and a clear fire, at half the usual expense; so that to the poor in the chalk districts it must be an invaluable boon.—*The Builder.*

Surgical operations without pain.—We have been informed that two operations were performed by Mr. Liston, at the University College Hospital, on Saturday last, while the patients were under the stupefying influence of vapour of ether. The one was amputation of the leg, the other evulsion of the nail of the great toe. The vapour of ether was inhaled by means of a proper apparatus, and, when it had produced its full effect, the operation was speedily performed. Neither of the patients knew, when they recovered from their stupor, that the operation had been performed. Mr. Liston observed that the vapour of ether had been used for a similar purpose in America, but only in minor operations, such as the removal of tumours, &c We hope to have further particulars on this very interesting subject.—*Medical Times.*

HORSE SHOEING.

It is well known that one of the many serious evils to which "horse flesh" is exposed, arises from a vicious mode of shoeing. This is particularly felt in the case where corns are produced by the iron shoe at present used, giving an excessive share of labour to the horny crust from the sole and frog. The author says:—

"But the *corn*, by whatever means produced, is greatly aggravated by the iron shoe, when so nailed on as to prohibit the relief that the corn, in an unshod foot, would derive from the expansion of the quarters. An inherent evil, therefore, of the iron shoe, is its undue pressure on the crust. Hence the great severity of the road-work as compared with riding on soft ground. In the former, the crust has to bear nearly the whole burden; in the latter, the soft surface, rising in the hollow of the foot, distributes the pressure over the sole and frog."

To obviate the evils of this system of shoeing, he puts forward his own views, which are well worth attentive perusal. The peculiarity of the invention consists in the provision made for action *behind*, by having the hinder nail holes widened in the direction of the elastic action, to treble the size of the *neck* of the nail.

"The nails inserted in these slits or apertures are termed 'slide nails,' and their heads take hold of the shoe at each side of these apertures respectively, in counter-sinkings, where they work to and fro, with the alternate expansion and contraction of the hoof in which they are fixed, and at the same time hold the shoe tight to the foot. In this way, at every step of the animal, the natural action takes place; and although the extent through which it ranges in any case is very small, not exceeding the sixth or eighth of an inch at either side, yet the beneficial effects of avoiding an interference with the provisions of nature, even to that slight extent, are most striking and indubitable.

"To guard against the effects of gravel or road-stuff lodging in the apertures, an opening is made on the exterior face of the shoe, through which the action of the nail (carried in and out by the motion of the hoof in which it is fixed) expels any foreign substance that may happen to be taken up."

The work is illustrated with engravings of the several parts of the foot of the horse, and of the different sections of the shoe, and the testimonials of the efficacy of the slide-nail shoe are from most respectable physicians and persons connected with agricultural pursuits.

Editor's Cares.—The preparation of a constantly recurring periodical work, especially if conjoined with other duties, is a sure means of making time fly fast. There is no cessation—no pause; the task is never done; the mind never unoccupied. "I'll leave it till to-morrow" cannot be said; pleasant loiterings must not be hoped for; it is on, on, till the account is closed; and so the years' ends come long before they are looked for. An editor's duties, even in a case comparatively unimportant, are onerous and unthankful; those whom he praises "love him less than their dinner," and those whom he finds fault with hate him "worse than the d——l." If he step out manfully, he can scarcely avoid treading on somebody's toes, who will make a point of never forgetting it; whilst those on whom he may bestow commendation even if nothing more substantial, during his journey, will quietly place it all to their own merits.—*The Builder.*