lot is beginning to be a most important affair. In many parts of the country, timber grows scarce. Those who have it will do well to avoid all waste, and provide wisely for coming years. All fallen timber that can be used should be converted into firewood. Dead trees should be felled. A culling process that will make the piece of woods last as long as possible should be adopted. All fence timber should be carefully preserved. Fuel and fencing will be costly things on many a Canadian farm before long. Not only firing, but material for making new fences and repairing old ones, ought to be provided in the winter time.

This is usually regarded as a season of comparative leisure, but it may, if desired, be made as busy a time as any in the year. In addition to the duties already spoken of, there are many useful and necessary matters that can be attended to in winter, better than at any other time. Most farmers have some skill in the use of tools, and can make a variety of articles needed on the farm, such as gates, waggon racks, sleds, stone-boats, rollers, drags, &c. There is no better time than winter for providing such things. Farm accounts should now be straightened up, and much thought bestowed on the doings of the past year. The questions, "what errors have I committed? what successes have I gained? and wherein can my farming be improved?" should be well weighed during many an anxious hour. Plans for the coming busy season should be carefully formed. Books and periodicals devoted to agriculture should be closely studied, and a note made of valuable hints, for future reference and use. Reading on general subjects, with a view to the improvement of the mind, may properly claim a portion of time. The farmer need not be a dunce or an ignoramus. Let him seek and intermeddle with all wisdom. It is an objection urged sometimes against rural pursuits, that farmers, as a class, are so uneducated and uninformed, and that it is not easy to find intelligent and refined society among them. Let this reproach be taken away from this most noble of all secular pursuits. The long winter evenings not only give opportunity for reading and reflection, but for lectures, farmers' clubs, &c. These ought to be established in every neighbourhood. Prejudice against book-farming and innovations ought to be laid aside, and "EXCELSIOR!" adopted as the universal motto.

These hints may suffice to show how much of real work may be crowded into the season of winter. But we by no means advocate a tread-mill mode of existence,—one in which incessant plodding, at work of some sort or other, is to be going on. We believe in recreation, and winter is a good time for that. There are many indoor enjoyments that may be had: music, singing, sensible games, social gatherings, and the like. There are out-door recreations also: sleigh-riding, hunting, skating, &c. As we pointed out about a year ago, every rural neighbourhood might have, at small expense, a rink for skating, curling, &c.; and many farmers, with creeks flowing beside their doors, might provide such a source of amusement for their own families. We believe that as a class, farmers unbend from hard work too little. A day now and then during the other seasons, as well as in winter, may be well spent in relaxation and recreation. The farmer himself, his often too hard-worked wife, and his children, secluded from the busy world, would be gainers every way, by periods of wisely chosen amusement. "All work and no play" not only "makes Jack a dull boy," but has a like effect on Jack's father and mother, and indeed upon the whole family. Or, to quote Æsop's graver saw, "the bow always bent loses its spring."

The Rinderpest.

THIS fatal pestilence still stands foremost among the agricultural questions of the day. The London *Times* does not now devote two or three columns daily to chronicle fresh outbreaks, as it was wont to do some weeks since. The British public are, therefore, mainly indebted to the culpably meagre, and confessedly incorrect returns, issued by the Privy Council Office, for a record of the deadly operations of the plague. The statistics in question are a kind of vague cattle-mortality-bill, since the first appearance of the rinderpest in Britain, up to the second day of November. It is not attempted to be concealed, by the authorities themselves, that the numbers they publish are unreliable. Imperfect as the statistics are, however, they are yet sufficient to prove that the widely circulated reports of the gradual cessation of the plague were without foundation. The number of cases tabulated in the Government returns are as follows:—

During the week ending the 14th October,	1054
" " " " " 21st "	1729
" " " " " 28th "	1873

There can be no disguising the fact that when nearly two thousand animals are prostrated in one week, the infection of an enormous amount of stock is indicated. Judging from the reports of newspapers published in the rural districts of Britain, we are disposed to believe that the area of infected country is widening every day. Since the commencement of the outbreak, it is probable that close upon 30,000 animals have succumbed to the fatal plague. It is difficult to conceive the loss to the country, which this statement implies. Apart from the immense pecuniary value of the animals themselves, the loss in grass rotting in fields, the income from the milk supply, the rents from the untenanted sheds, and other obvious considerations, would figure up a much larger sum of money, than is merely represented by the net value of thirty thousand head of cattle.

We notice that much discussion,—not always good-natured,—is still going on in the British agricultural journals, as to the origin, and curability of the plague. The balance of evidence seems to be poised pretty equally between the Russian and home generation theories. It seems questionable, whether or not a satisfactory solution of this question will be evolved from the tempest of speculative discussion going on at present, between the allopathic and homœpathic medical practitioners. With respect to the treatment of the plague, the former are meeting it by barbarously recommending the immediate slaughter of its victims. In the meantime, the homœpathic practitioners in England and Holland, not only profess to cure, but are actually curing a considerable majority of the cases committed to their care. As *Bell's Messenger* aptly remarks,—"The doctor who says he can cure a disease which other doctors have pronounced incurable, or have failed to cure, will naturally be regarded either with extreme respect, or extreme contempt." But, "to the owner of stock upon which the plague falls, it matters very little—it matters, in fact, nothing—whether his cattle are restored to health through the agency of a 'regular' veterinarian, or through the instrumentality of one whose system is based upon principles and data, to which long-established custom has not yet imparted the prestige of respectability. He praises the bridge that carries him over, and believes in the worker of what is equivalent to a miracle." With respect to the successful treatment of the disease, some very important statements, from reliable statistics, were recently made at Norwich, by Lord Bury. Some 4,700 cases of rinderpest, it appears, have been treated in Holland, and of these 45 per cent. have been saved, through the means of the allopathic and homœpathic treatment,—the latter having proved by far the more successful. The following extract from Lord Bury's speech, as reported in an English contemporary is conclusive on this point. "In September, when the cattle plague was raging in Holland, two Belgian gentlemen, M Gandy, a member of the Veterinary College, Brussels, and M. Scutin, a homœopathic chemist, offered to the Dutch Government that if a district were put under their charge, and if they would not allow them to be interfered with, and would not require them to make a report until a sufficient number of cases had been treated, they would on their part give their services gratuitously, and try the system fairly. This was accepted by the Dutch Government, who agreed to give a commune up to the homœopaths, it being understood that the veterinary surgeon of that commune should be required to certify that every case which came under homœopathic treatment was an actual case of Rinderpest. Matterness, the district assigned to the homœopaths, was a commune situated in the very centre of the infected district. The peasants and proprietors were somewhat prejudiced against the homœopathic system in the first instance, and did not enter cordially into the view of the homœopaths, but before the termination of the experiment they were greatly pleased with it, and gave every assistance in their power. At the commencement of the experiment the proportion of cures effected out of the animals attacked was 70 per cent., but in the last three weeks the homœopathists saved nine out of every ten cattle which came under their treatment. Matterness was situated within a mile of Kethel, in the very centre of what had come to be styled the 'black district,' so that the homœopathists did not enter upon their tasks under peculiarly favourable circumstances. They continued it till Sept. 22, and 80 beasts came under their care, each case being certified by the veterinary surgeon as one of actual rinderpest. Of these 80 animals 60 recovered and 20 died. Besides these, 230 beasts in the commune were put under prophylactic homœopathic treatment; 25 took the disease before the treatment had had time to work, but in the fourth week no fresh cases had occurred, and on the 21st of October the commune was pronounced free from disease, and had remained free from that time to the present. A large proportion of the cattle attacked in the commune of Matterness had been treated by the allopathists before the homœopaths came into the district. In all, 189 cases came under treatment, 80 under the homœopathic system, and 109 under the other. As 73 cures only were effected, of which 60 were attributed in an official report to the homœopaths, the balance was largely in favour of the homœopathic mode of treatment. To the 73 cured ought, however, to be added a portion of those still reported as under treatment, as some of them, no doubt, recovered. The remedies which were employed by the homœopaths were arsenicum, phosphorus, phosphoric acid, rhus tox., and sulphur. It was found that all cattle could not be treated alike, as every case had to be dealt with on its own merits. These details proved, he thought, that the disease was amenable to treatment, and that our plan of knocking on the head every animal which happened to be attacked was barbarous and unwise."

It will, in all probability, be objected by the orthodox practitioners in Britain, that the above medicines are prescribed as specifics, and that, therefore, the homœopathic practitioners are quacks. "Possibly," as has been well observed, "*the handing after* specifics is a mark of ignorance and weakness in medicine, yet the neglect of them is proof also of immaturity; for, in fact, *all medicines will be found specific in the perfection of the science.*" Dispassionate consideration is necessary on this, as well as on all other subjects. In an age of progress, a despotism of preconceptions cannot be tolerated. It does not follow that the dictum of even the greatest medical authorities is infallible. In the present lamentable condition of things, the British farmer who cannot bring the requisite amount of moral courage to form an independent opinion for himself—in spite of the sneers and sarcasms of eminent veterinary authorities—is a "slave not only to others but to himself."

DEATH OF DR. LINDLEY.—We regret to learn, from our recent British exchanges, that Dr. John Lindley, the distinguished Professor of Botany, in University College, London, is no more. He was born in February, 1799, at Catton, near Norwich, where his father was proprietor of a large nursery garden. At an early age, he devoted his attention to botanical science, and, when quite a youth, contributed some able papers to the "Transactions of the Linnæan Society." About the year 1820, he proceeded to London, where he became Assistant Secretary to the Horticultural Society. Mr. Loudon soon after engaged him to write the descriptive portion of his "Encyclopædia of Plants," the merit of which, as a botanical work, was entirely due to Dr Lindley, as was stated in the Preface. This work was completed in 1829, and in the same year he was appointed Professor of Botany, at the London University. In a "Natural System of Botany," published in 1836, Dr. Lindley took new views of botanical classification, and proposed a new nomenclature for the families of plants. Ten years later, his great work, "The Vegetable Kingdom" was published. "This work, the most elaborate that had appeared on systematic botany, gave a description of all the families of plants, and more especially of those most useful to man. It gave very extended lists of the genera, and was generally recognised as one of the most important contributions which had appeared at that time on systematic botany. While engaged in writing these works, Dr Lindley was most diligently employed, as a practical botanist, in describing new species, on which he wrote a large number of papers contributed to botanical publications. In 1841 he became the editor of the "Gardeners' Chronicle," a weekly publication, which he conducted with great ability. In 1860 he was appointed Examiner in the University of London. He was a Ph. D. of Munich, and a Fellow of the Royal Society, of which in 1858 he received the medal as a reward for his services to botanical science."