

AN EFFECTUAL METHOD FOR POISONING RATS.

Mix together arsenic and any kind of grease, smear the inside holes of egress and regress. The rats if they do not eat the mixture, and they are often too suspicious to venture upon poisoned food, will yet destroy themselves by licking their coats, to remove the impure substance adhering to it, in their passage through their holes, and thus effectually destroy themselves.

This plan was successfully pursued in an old house infested with rats in the old country; in a few weeks time not one of these creatures was to be heard or seen about the place. The granary and barns were also freed in the same simple manner.

Disagreeable as is the odour of the rat and mouse, they are scrupulously attentive to keeping their fur clean from any impurity.

TO RESTORE THE BARK OF TREES THAT HAD BEEN INJURED BY MICE, &c.

Let the ragged and bitten edges of the injured trunk, or branch, be cut neatly and carefully round with a sharp knife, above and below the bare place, so as to present a perfectly smooth edge, then from the branch of a lively free-growing tree, cut a piece of bark, measuring the exact size, as nearly as possible, of the part to be covered; when you have fitted the piece nicely in, so that the edges meet without leaving any vacancy, with a little grafting wax or gum, as pine or cherry gum, smear the cracks so as to cover all the joinings, of which there will be three, bind a strip of cotton or linen cloth round the joined bark, and the work is done. This plan I once saw successfully practised in my father's garden.

If the wound is covered early in spring, the bark thus artificially introduced, will supply the channel of communication that has been cut off, on the principle of the graft and bud system. At any rate the experiment is worth a trial, it is neither difficult nor expensive, and if successful will amply repay the gardener and farmer's trouble.

Oaklands, Rice Lake, Sept., 1856.

CLOVER FOR MANURE.—The *American Agriculturist* strongly recommends the turning under of crops of clover as a means of fertilizing the soil. It thus answers those who contend that it is simply putting back into the ground a crop grown from it:—"If we take a box of earth containing, say 600 pounds and weigh it carefully, and then sow an ounce of clover seed in it, we can continue to remove successive crops until we have taken off more weight of clover than the entire weight of earth in the box at first; and this too, without adding anything but the purest water. After we have removed this crop, we shall find the box of earth to weigh more than 600 pounds, (its original weight), at least, nearly as much more as the weight of the roots remaining in the contained soil. The clover grown has been derived from the air; and such is the case with all plants. Their principal food comes from the atmosphere, from which it has been extracted by the surface of the leaves."

HOW TO HARVEST CORN.—Let the corn remain on the stalk until it is dry and fit for the crib.

Enter the field with horse and waggon, straddle every fifth row, with a man on each side and a boy in the rear. Break off the ears as rapidly as possible, throwing them into the wagon; this saves carrying or handling over, not being particular about taking off all the husks; secure your corn in any convenient place until winter; a pen of rails will answer. The husks that remain will keep the corn from spoiling in the crib. When you wish to market your corn put it on a floor, thresh with horses, the husks will not be in the way, rake off, run through a mill, and your corn will be bright and clean, and in first-rate condition. Two men and a boy can pick and crib two hundred and fifty bushels of ears in a day.