tured. I heard a demoiselle exclaim, the other day, "Oh! these horrid collars," why wear them?" said he friend, "I can't help it, she replied, they are fastened to the waist.

The sun bonnet for very young people, seems far preferable to the straw hat, which is oftener seen hanging at the back of a child's head than doing its duty as a cover for the same, and is a real hinderance to play.

THE SUGAR LOAF HAT.

Is still a favorite with many and is nice and cool to the head.

Children like it for other reasons; one is they can easily convert it into a basket, in which to carry wild flowers or any other collection Tie the two strings together,and there is the basket

OPEN WINDOWS.

There is great difference of opinion among housewives as to the advisability of keeping open windows, according as they are influenced by early education and prejudice, theory of draughts, and care of window garniture. The advantages and disavantages are equally obvious. We shall regulate our conduct in this matter by the weight we are inclined to lay on different considerations. There can be no two opinions as to the beneficial effects of a constant supply of fresh air in our rooms. As our houses are at present built, this can only be ensured by having our windows partially opened all the year round when the rooms, if kept thoroughly clean, will smell as sweet as out of doors.

The greatest objection that most people urge against this practice is the danger of draughts. Now, to a healthy person of normal temperature, accustomed to much open-air exercice, a draught is not an inevitable death-trap. Moreover, one need not elect to sit in a direct line with the door and window if a cold current is felt. But many women have an utterly unreasonable horror at the sight of an open window, even in summer. "Excuse me, I have such a dread of draughts; would you mind me closing the window?" is the not infrequent remark of a cautious visiter.

It has been amply demonstrated by our medical men of late in teaching hygiene that colds are caused by bad air, deficient ventilation. There is much more danger to health in a badly ventilated than in a draughty room. In this, as in every thing else, our body adapts itself to our habits. If we constantly sit in closed rooms, an open window for once might cause a chill; whereas if we accustom ourselves to a free circulation of air, we shall not readily catch cold.

The custom is most valuable at night, when we are compelled to breathe so many hours in the same apartment. Even with and open door, the oxygen is largely exhausted before morning. It is a wise habit to have our bedroom windows a few inches open at the top winter and summer, except in stormy weather or during intense cold such as we endured in February. To those who practice this, a closed bed-room gives a sense of suffocation during the night, and a headache in the morning. In warm summer weather in the country, it is delightful to have both sashes fung together during the night, and early in the morning when we wake our nostrils are regaled with the scent of mignonette or wallflower, and our ears greeted with the distant bleating of lambs or lowing of cattle. It is a refinement of one of the free delights of a gipsy life.

From the housewife's standpoint these advantages are minimised by the damage done to blinds and curtains from the dust that is certain to be blown in. Sometimes, too, a storm of rain may come on unexpectedly, and injure our fresh curtains before we have time to run upstairs and close the windows. She who is anxious that her window drapery should always be in perfect condition and position, and that as little stray dust as possible should find its way into her house, had better keep her windows religiously sealed. The cottages in our neighborhood keep a long circular pad on the junction of the two sashes to prevent the ingress of dust. Undoubtedly no housewife worthy of the name could allow clouds of dust to come in at an open window, even for the sake of fresh air. But country houses, with very few exceptions, are so situated that there is no business, no traffic, perhaps no public road, and consequently very little dust at any time. The worst we have to endure of that nature is the swirling of chaff and bits of straw on to the carpet and furniture if any of our windows should overlook the farmyard. From which considerations it would appear that, of all people, farmers' wives may most safely fling their windows wide, and admit freely air and sunshine to their houses. And, I regret to add, of different clases I have known they are the most careless and prejudiced in this respect—perhaps because, as their duties take them a great deal out of doors, they never feel the want of fresh air.

GRETCHEN.

GOOD THOUGHTS CONDENSED.

That which we doubt is right to us it wrong.

Make life a ministry of love and it will always be worth living.

Life without laughing is a dreary blank. A good laugh is sunshine in a house.

The great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving.

Every human being is intended to have a character of his own, to be what no other is, to do what no other can.

When a man owns himself to have been in error, it is but telling you, in other words, that he is wiser than he was.

Sorrows are visitors that come without an invitation, but complaining minds send a waggon to bring their troubles home in.

Mirth should be the embroidery of the conversation, not the web; and wit the ornament of the mind, not the furniture.

There is nothing which marks more decidedly the character of men and of nations than the manner in which they treat women.

It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy that makes happiness. A little wood will heat my little oven. Why then should I murmur because all the woods are not mine.

HOUSEKEEPER.

Manures.

LIMING LAND.

(By L. F. Hausen).

A dressing of lime,whether in the form of the carbonate, plaster, or quick-lime will, if judiciously applied, have an excellent effect in increasing the fertility of the soil. This substance is added with the double object of increasing the crops and stimulating the action of the ingredients of which the soil is composed.

Lime often has the effect of altering the character of pasture land, especially when applied to rough grasses, to which it proves harmful by favoring a higher order of vegetable growth.

The results brought about by its influence will be an increase in the crops, grain of better quality and colour, an earlier harvest and sweeter herbage.

Quick or burnt lime when applied to the soil, acts in several ways, both chemically and mechanically, and it may be said to exert a three-fold influence as a fertilizer. It serves as food for the plant, it works up a fund of organic and mineral constituents lying dormant in the ground; by it, also, the texture of heavy clays and, in the opposite way, of light sands, is greatly improved. It is a direct plant food, and all plants must have more or less lime within reach in order to be in a healthy condition and complete their growth, so that land lacking this mineral element cannot be expected to yield a good return until this deficiency is made good. Besides this, lime effects another and most important work. In the process of lime-making, water and carbonic acid are driven off by the heat and it becomes a strong alkali, capable of promoting the decomposition of organic matter and humus contained in the soil. The nitrogen in humus is not available as plant food; to become assimilable it must be changed into nitric acid and ammonia; this result is brought about by the bacteria present in the soil, the carbon of the organic matter being at the same time exidised into carbonic acid. These acids usually combine with lime as a base and thus prevent, to a considerable extent the potash and other salts from being too quickly washed away. Lime neutralizes acidity and produces changes in some harmful iron compounds found in low-lying and mossy soils. Some crops, such as clover and roots, have the power of making use of lime when potash is not available, so economising the use of the latter salt. Besides aiding nitrification, it breaks up the compounds of inorganic matter which are inert and by combining with certain of the elements of which these are made up, renders them soluble, and so suitable as plant-food. When we add to this its excellent effect in improving the quality of the crop, hastening maturity, destroying insects and keeping in check noxious weeds, we can realize what an important part lime plays.

Furthermore, the physical effect of lime in altering the texture of a soil, opening and making friable heavy clays and stiff loam, is well known. An uncoagulated (?) clay is sticky and cannot be reduced to a state of fine mellow tilth, so as to be pervious to moisture and air. A coagulated (?) clay is friable and can be reduced to powder. This desirable result may be affected by frost and by the addition of certain salts, notably those of calcium. While chalk or lime is employed on clay land to diminish its tenacity and facilitate tillage, it is also useful in giving firmness and cohesion to loose and sandy soils.

In recommending dressing with lime, it is not amiss to sound a note of warning in regard its application in unreasonable excess. Like many other good things, it may be easily overdone. There are disadvantages as well as benefits attendant on the too free use of lime, and it is to be regarded as a stimulant (1) rather than as a manure. In fact, its continued application without other manures is liable to cause exhaustion of the soil. A too liberal treatment on newly manured land is likely to cause the liberation of a greater amount of the most valuable food elements than the plants can immediately avail themselves of. Thus valuable food ingredients may be lost by being washed into drains or dissipated as ammonia (2).

The amount of lime applied should not be too large, but may vary according to circumstances, a shallow soil not requiring so heavy a dressing as a deep soil; and deep tillage will call for a larger application than shallower cultivation. As a rule, an occasional dressing of one or two tons per acre will be enough. In the case of strong land, as much as five or six tons per acre is sometimes recommended, but, in practice, this quantity is not often applied, except for land containing much inert organic matter or heavy land, as already stated. A sandy soil or a soil poor in vegetable matter will require a much smaller amount than one rich in organic matter. Drained lands will need a less quantity than undrained lands.

Almost all soils contain lime to a greater or less extent; but the smaller the quantity, the more profitable, as a rule, will be its artificial application. The state in which the lime is present in the soil, is, however an important consideration. If it is present in the condition of gypsum, or in the form of silicate, lime will be of more benefit than if it exists as carbonate.

The composition and texture of the soil will thus have to be taken into consideration in regard to the amount and kind of lime required. Caustic or burnt lime is much more powerful in its action than chalk or marl, and should be used with discrimination, lest the humus of the soil be unduly diminished. The lime made from magnesian lime stone is said to be of less value as a fertilizer (3). It is now the practice to give smaller dressings at more frequent intervals. It may be applied in the spring or in the fall—preferably the latter—and should not be deeply ploughed, but lightly harrowed, in; by adopting this course much waste is prevented by drainage and its presence retained within range of the plant roots. This tendency to be carried down into the sub-soil ought to make us cautions not to bury it deeply, but to keep it as near the surface of the ground as possible. It matters little whether it be spread in spring or in autumn, but convenience in carting will have to be taken into consideration. Where it is to be employed as slaked-lime, it may be laid down in small heaps and slightly covered with sod or soil. This saves re-filling and re-carting. The heaps placed at interval of ten yards will give forty-eight or forty-nine heaps to the acre. Supposing these to contain fifty pounds, we should thus get a dressing of 24 cwt. per acre. By varying the amount, we can easily get the quantity required. This is particularly applicable to arable land.

(1) In England it is called 'mendment, clearly from the French "amendement," as are clay, compost, etc. Ed.

(2) The Glamorganshire farmers,some 50 years ago, ruined their land by over-liming and under-dunging. Ed.

(3) If the percentage of magnesia is large, it is injurious in the highest degree.—Ed.