

AGRICULTURAL ABSTINENCE.

"An extraordinary case of abstinence" has lately been astonishing the weak mind of proverbially "Silly Suffolk." One ELIZABETH SQUIRREL, it is said, a resident at Shottisham in that county, has been living upon nothing for the last six months, and is still voluntarily restricting herself to this economic diet. By some her existence is esteemed a miracle: but to us the miracle appears to be that a case like this should have occasioned any wonder in so fruitfully miraculous a district. "Hundreds of visitors," we are told, "of every rank in life, have daily flocked to see her. Committees have been formed to watch at her bedside; and repeated public meetings have been held throughout the neighbourhood, for the purpose of debating and examining the case."

As if there were anything new in it! As if this air-plant vegetation were not a known and common attribute of our agricultural humanity! Why, total abstinents abound in Suffolk: the whole country is infested with these starviug SQUIRRELS:—SQUIRRELS, namely, in the shape of our Distressed Agriculturists, who, by their own veracious testimony, have been living upon nothing for the last six years—in fact, ever since the introduction of Free Trade. Fdly, we think, may these be christened "SQUIRRELS" for are they not continually (according to their own account, at least) "up a tree?"

PUNCH ON THE BABY.

Babies are such delicate subjects, we scarcely know how to handle them. Some look upon a Baby as an unmitigated good, but we have often met with it in the shape of a "crying evil." Much, however, depends on the treatment of the infant, and in this respect we cannot too much condemn the bad example set by the providers of public entertainments, for a baby is seldom introduced upon the stage, except to be stuffed into a drawer, thrust away under a bed, sat down upon in a chair, or thrown about in a pantomime. If all the world were literally a stage, no baby could survive the first stage of its existence. A real Adelphi baby should possess a heart of bran and a head of wood, the arms of a Dutch doll and the legs of a Marionette, to be able to bear the treatment to which it is liable, Happily our business is with the baby of private life, and not with the baby of the foot-lights, so that we are not doomed to the agony of tracing its heart-rending career, from the hands of its unnatural father—the property man—to the hamper, the holes and corners, the parcels, and even the pockets, into which it is kicked and crammed in the course of its brief existence.

A new-born baby exhibits to the eye of a casual observer during the first few weeks of its existence nothing but a series of grimaces, which, though usually the result of wind, are supposed to arise from intelligence. When a baby has a tendency to nocturnal roaring, the mother usually proposes a mild cathartic, but the father is apt to propose a more decided regimen by committing it to the nursery. Some infants scream at the sight of a strange face, a mode of proceeding which is usually attributed to sagacity on the part of the "little dear," but it really arises from

that *cacoethes lacrymandi* which is so prevalent among the infant community.

When the child is teething, it is difficult to say what should be the mode of treatment, but speaking as a father—not as a mother—we are inclined to think that the only course to take while the infant cuts its teeth, is for the time, to cut the infant.

Among the diseases to which children are liable we must instance spasms, which, however, are often an imaginary complaint, put forward by the nurse as a plea for the necessity of having some spirits always at hand, and "from hand to mouth" is continually exemplified by the class alluded to.

As the complaints of the baby are not a pleasant theme, we shall pass over the catalogue commencing alphabetically in Croup and ending in Snuffles—a malady whose effects it is more easy to understand than to appreciate.

BILL-STICKERS BEWARE.—One would think that the Bill-Stickers were a most formidable body of men, if we are to judge by the number of warnings and cautions that are being constantly addressed to them. From the frequency with which they are called upon to "Beware," it would appear that the Bill-Stickers have a reputation for sticking at nothing, and that it is necessary to make them the objects of constant caution. The last new move that has been made against them is to hold them responsible for the sentiments contained in the placards they paste up:—a proceeding that must lead to much inconsistency, for everybody knows, on the authority of the old joke on the subject that a Bill-Sticker will stick up for any side that will pay him.

A poor unfortunate has, it is said, been lately held to bail for posting an anti-militia bill, though, perhaps, the self-same individual had, within a few minutes, been pasting up a placard, inviting "fine young men" to join the gallant band; and there is but little doubt that if he were asked to stick up a broadside, offering a reward for his own apprehension, he would undertake the job on the shortest notice. Everybody knows that if a Bill-Sticker were for one moment to become a party man, his occupation would be gone; and he accordingly merges his politics in his pastepot. To him it is a matter of indifference what the Government may do; the only Bills in which he feels an interest being those that require sticking. He cares not to watch the stages at which a Bill in the House may have arrived, but he is anxious that every Bill should be printed, in order that he may have an opportunity of submitting it out of doors to the fair chance of a reading.

AN AUSTRIAN HEAVEN.—An Austrian, upon being asked for a definition of Paradise, said, "I believe it to be a kingdom where you can travel backwards and forwards without a passport."

SPIGOTRY AND INTOLERANCE.—An advertisement has been published with the heading of "Bitter Beer Controversy." We cannot well conceive a controversy about beer being a bitter one, unless a part in it has been taken by PHILPOTTS.