

and then it was emptied by taking out cart loads at a time for extraordinary purposes. After the bank was thrown up around the pen, we set in four blocks at the corners, and laid upon them two courses of logs twenty feet long; they were cut this length in order to throw the eaves some five or six feet from the ice, and thereby secure it from the intrusion of water. There was left sufficient space between the logs to admit a free circulation of air. The walls have crumbled but a very little—more in the first year than ever since, and this was caused by rats. We paid a workman four dollars, for putting on the roof, hanging doors, &c., and that was the whole cost, save the labor of four farm hands, two days digging, and putting up the logs, and the cost of materials.

We will give you our plan of saving seed corn; several years' trial proves it to be a good one, and it has been strikingly demonstrated this season. Owing to bad seed, the corn generally this season came up badly this spring; a large number of farmers had to furrow their land out and plant over—others had more or less of replanting to do. We are spared the trouble of replanting a single hill, as we believe every one of them came up, and we attribute it altogether to seed saved as follows:—Directions were given last fall to the hands, when they commenced cutting up corn, to leave such stalks as had two or more ears on them; these were permitted to stand until the corn was thoroughly ripe; after it was sufficiently cured, the corn was gathered with the shuck on, and put into the barn and left until near planting time; it was then shucked and the best ears selected for seed.—This plan obviates the danger of cutting too green, of heating in the heap, of freezing, &c.—*American Farmer*.

ACTION OF SUGAR ON THE TEETH.

The Charleston, S. C., Medical Journal states that M. Larez, in the course of his investigations on the teeth, arrived at the following conclusions:

1. Refined sugar, from either cane or beets, is injurious to healthy teeth, either by immediate contact with these organs or by the gas developed, owing to its stoppage in the stomach.

2. If a tooth is macerated in a saturated solution of sugar, it is so much altered in the chemical composition that it becomes gelatinous, and its enamel opaque, spongy, and easily broken.

3. This modification is due, not to free acid, but to a tendency of sugar to combine with the calcareous basis of the tooth.

The foregoing conclusion are correct, and candies and condiments should be avoided. They should be kept from children especially. It is well known that maple sugar renders the teeth tender and sensitive.—*Scientific American*.

FOR THE HICKUP.

Travelling some time since by railroad from Columbus to Baltimore I took my seat immediately in front of a gentleman who was suffering under a paroxysm of hickup, to a degree that I had never before witnessed. In a few minutes a person appeared from the end of the car and took a seat beside him, when he said: "Sir, can you tell me what is good for the hickup? I have been afflicted in the way you see me since yesterday noon, and had no rest or relief from any physician to whom I applied for assistance; I am worn out with suffering." To whom the person replied. "Sir, I will cure you in less than ten minutes by the watch. Have confidence, for I am sure I can do it. Hold up high above your head two

fingers of the right hand; lean back in your seat, open your mouth and throat so as to give a free passage to your lungs; breathe very long and softly, and look very steadily at your fingers. In less than the time specified the cure was performed, and hickup only occurring during the trial. The patient could not express his gratitude, while the practitioner only extracted from him as a fee the promise that he would extend the knowledge which he had imparted as freely as he had received it, assuring him that he would never be disappointed in the result. We were all struck with the fact. Since then I have often had occasion to practice upon patients in the same disorder, and never without the most signal success.—*Water Cure Journal*.

HEALTH OF AMERICANS.

De Bow's mortality statistics, compiled from the last census, show that the people of the United States are the healthiest on the globe. The deaths are three hundred and twenty thousand per year, or one and a half per cent. of the population. In England the ratio is near two per cent., and in France nearly three per cent. Virginia and North Carolina are the healthiest of the States, and have six hundred and thirty-eight inhabitants over 100 years of age. These figures, however, may all be reversed by the next census, for the medical schools were never more flourishing, twenty-six colleges having graduated last year, about thirteen hundred doctors.

EGYPTIAN WHEAT.

During the seven years foretold by Joseph in the land of Egypt, 'the earth brought forth corn by handfuls, 'seven ears on one stalk.' It is not said, certainly, that this was wheat; but its description exactly corresponds with the *triticum compositum* at present cultivated in that country, and also with the *mummy wheat*, discovered in a sarcophagus in the Egyptian tombs, which had probably lain there for more than three thousand years, but which, when planted, vegetated, and has afforded us a new variety of that grain. I have some ears of this now before me, exhibiting the same phenomenon of 'seven ears on one stalk.' This wheat is made into Colne flour, and the London bakers use it to dust the heading-boards. Thus we have the fact distinctly brought before us, that the wheat of that period possessed features in common—allowing for the changes effected by differences of soil, character, and cultivation—with that of the present day.—*Mark Lane Express*.

IRON MANIPULATION.

A most interesting paper was read at the late British Scientific meeting, by a Mr. Bessemer, describing a new process of rendering iron malleable without furnace or fuel. From the inventor's account, it appears to be nothing more than an application of common chemical principles, the result of which is, however, astonishing. A mass of molten iron—seven hundred weight of crude iron—is poured into an earthen vessel of peculiar construction, a blast of cold air is introduced into the mass, and then, by the union of the oxygen with the carbon in the iron, the whole boils up, and gives forth a brilliant flame. The iron thus parts with all the carbon, and may be taken out within half an hour, in any stage, from steel to the softest iron.