

literary, rather than of the utilitarian books, which occupy an entirely different place. I have, moreover, been writing for grown-up readers only, and especially for those whose income is limited, and who cannot afford to buy scores of volumes, which, however useful for reference, one might not have occasion to open more than once in a year. The rich man may have all the books he chooses, the poorer one must be satisfied with a small library carefully chosen. Finally, although the work of choosing the books adapted to you must rest with yourself, we may possibly be able to help you in knowing the names of those masterpieces to which the common consent of literary critics has affixed the seal "Good Literature." Hence, next time we shall devote some space to lists of books.

In the meantime, don't forget the Housekeepers' Competition. We hope to have scores of cosy, helpful letters to publish during the next few months. Remember, choose your own subject, and be sure to have your letter posted in good time; the competition closes on November 20th. DAME DURDEN. "Farmer's Advocate" office, London, Ont.

Dear Dame Durden,—I noticed in your issue of October 6th that "Giglamps" asked for a recipe for gingerbread. I will send one I have used with good success. As I find so many useful recipes and such like in your valuable paper, which we have taken for some time, I thought I would try and help a little, and I will also send a recipe for ginger cookies, which someone, perhaps, would like. They are cheap, but very good. Would someone, please, send good recipes for pumpkin and mince pie?

#### GINGERBREAD.

One egg, one cup brown sugar, half cup of butter, half cup of syrup, half cup of sour milk, one tablespoonful of ginger, one teaspoonful of soda, and one cup and a half of flour. This makes a medium-sized cake; if you wish a large one double the amount.

#### GINGER COOKIES.

One cup of syrup, one egg, one cup of lard or butter (or mixed), one cup and half of sugar, one cup of sweet milk, one teaspoonful of soda, one tablespoonful of ginger, pinch of salt, flour enough to roll.

This is the first I have sent; may I come again? Wishing all success, I remain,—

BUSY-MISS-MISSY.

Come again, Busy - Miss - Missy, and—yes, be sure to send your name and address next time. We never publish them unless it is clearly indicated that this is to be done, but it is a rule of all newspaper correspondence to have both name and address given with every communication. D. D.

#### Parathetical Remarks.

A well-known Indiana man  
One dark night last week  
Went to the cellar with a match  
In search of a gas leak.  
(He found it.)

John Welch, by curiosity,  
(Despatches state), was goaded;  
He squinted in his old shotgun  
To see if it was loaded.  
(It was.)

A man in Macon stopped to watch  
A patent cigar clipper;  
He wondered if his finger was  
Not quicker than the nipper.  
(It wasn't.)

A Maine man read that human eyes  
Of hypnotism were full;  
He went to see if it would work  
Upon an angry bull.  
(It wouldn't.)

Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Can any of your readers send in to your valuable paper a name of a place with more letters than LLANFAIR-PWLLGWYNGYLLGGERCHYCHGWYN-DROBWLILLANDISILIOGOGOGOGCH? It is a popular name in Wales. I hope my friends of the "Farmer's Advocate" will not get choked by pronouncing it.

T. J. THOMAS.

Llewellyn, Assa.

#### House-plants.

With the coming of winter the question of keeping house-plants looms up again with a new importance, and probably half the farmers' wives in the land are asking themselves the question, "Shall I bother with them this year?" If you have a cold house I should say decidedly, don't try to keep too many. Just a few of the hardier kinds, geraniums, monthly roses, rubber plants, fuschias, cacti, or ferns, which may be covered up conveniently at nights, and will stand a chilling so long as they are kept from actual frost, will give you much more satisfaction than a multitude of varieties over which you will have to fuss, and some of which will be sure to be chilled and damaged, if not actually frozen, some time before spring. If you have a warm house, however, with a furnace in it, or good big heaters, in which a block may be kept going all night, you may look forward to keeping as many varieties as you care to work with. A temperature of from 50° to 55° at night and from 60° to 70° during the day will suit the most fastidious plant that it would be wise for you to bother with. The other general conditions of successful plant-raising are: Plenty of light, sunshine, good soil, good drainage, pure air, and sufficient moisture. There are, of course, many varieties which require individual treatment—it would never do, for instance, to treat a cactus exactly as you would a calla lily—and the plant-grower who essays to keep widely different species, must see to it that she understands the peculiarities of each.

For the greater number of house-plants, however, which one is likely to try, the following treatment will prove satisfactory: Procure some good loam—an excellent kind may be obtained by digging up thin sods in a rich, old pasture field, and scraping the soil from about the roots of the grass. If more convenient, a mixture of leaf mould (never swamp muck), with good garden soil, and just enough sand to make the whole friable, will be found quite satisfactory. Have your pots ready, and be sure they are not too large; five- or six-inch pots are, as a rule, quite large enough for the majority of house-plants, although one must keep a few larger ones on hand to shift the plants into according as the pots fill with roots. Put a good inch of drainage material, sharp pebbles or broken crockery, in the bottom of each pot, and cover over with a little moss to keep the soil from filtering down. Be sure there is a hole in the bottom of each pot, and never plant in a jardiniere. Now fill up with the soil, and put in your plants. Water well and set in a partially-shaded place for a while until rooted, then bring to a brighter situation.

Above all things, do not water too much. Unless in the case of callas, umbrella plants, and other bog natives, never give water unless the soil is perfectly dry on top. Another way of testing is to tap the side of the pot; if it gives out a ringing sound it may be taken for granted that the plant needs watering. Then soak thoroughly with tepid water—soap-suds are usually beneficial—and spray or sponge the leaves off whenever they seem dusty. A few plants, Rex begonia, for instance, and most of the very hairy plants, object to the sponge, but callas, roses, rubber plants, and other such smooth-leaved varieties, delight in having their leaves washed off every day.

Another necessity for successful plant-growing is pure air. Plants, as well as people, grow sickly in a heavy, impure atmosphere, and must have a regular supply of pure, fresh oxygen from without. A perfectly ventilated room will, of course, supply this regularly; otherwise the air must be admitted by doors and windows, care being taken that the cold air is not permitted to strike directly on the plants while entering the room. Since excessive dryness of the

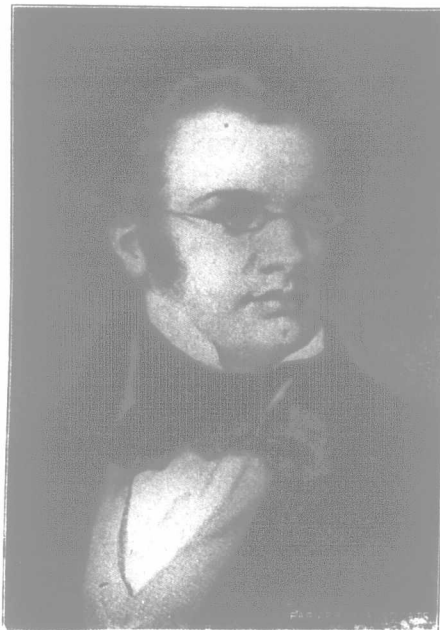
air is very harmful to plants, moisture should be supplied by a pan of water kept continually on heater or register.

In disposing plants, some judgment must be exercised. As a rule, flowering plants prefer a sunny window. Ferns, rubber plants, leopard plants, umbrella plants, calla lilies, and Asparagus Plummosus, on the other hand, do better in a northern or eastern situation, while Rex begonias and velvet plants should never upon any account be placed where the sun can strike upon them. Cacti prefer plenty of sunshine, and Asparagus Sprengeri will do equally well with the sun or without it, so long as it is supplied with plenty of light.

In conclusion, it may be said that if you have brought geraniums, etc., in from the garden, it will be better to cut them back sharply, so as to induce new growth. If the leaves fall off plants so brought in, do not be discouraged; succeeding growth will be rapid, and before spring the plants will probably make a good showing.

FLORA FERNLEAF.

"Farmer's Advocate" office, London, Ont.



Schubert (1797-1828).

#### Schubert.

Born, 1797; died, 1828.

If we were asked to choose from all the men who in all time and in all nations have created music, a little band of twelve, to whom the proud distinction of the very greatest should be accorded, surely in that small band of immortals would be found the name of Franz Schubert.

Like other great geniuses, such as Keats, Shelley, Byron, Bellini, Mendelssohn and Mozart, Schubert's life was a short one, for he died at the early age of 32. His was also a very sad life; it seemed that all the malign fairies had poured all their thorny gifts into his cradle, but to compensate him, the Spirit of Music had endowed him with this power to dream lovely melodies and harmonies more than any other man that ever lived, with but one exception, Mozart. Schubert was even more an improviser than Chopin, and often wrote with such speed as to produce as many as eight songs in one day. Indeed, he gave out music as the earth in spring yields perfumes.

He was the son of a poor schoolmaster, and tried to follow his father's occupation; but the love of music was too strong, and so, for the last twelve years, though often lamentably poor, even to the verge of starvation, he devoted all his energies to his beloved art, which seemed to be the very breath of his being. And yet this marvellous genius spent all his life in the city of Vienna, which was the very center of the musical world at that time, and its neglect of him is a blot of lasting disgrace upon the pleasure-loving Austrian capital.

Schubert tried his hand in nearly all forms of musical art, but in the song and in the lyric type of symphony and string quartet he succeeded best. In his songs almost every theme is illustrated, but the most famous of them deal with love, with parental affection, with gentle nature, and with awe of the unknown.

For study.—Soprano: Morning Serenade, "Hark, hark, the Lark"; "The Trout"; "Ave Maria," and "Songs to be Sung on the Water." Contralto: "Death and the Maiden." Tenor or soprano: "The Serenade in D Minor." Baritone: "The Erl King" (poem by Goethe). Among the loveliest piano selections are: Romance in G Major, Op. 90, No. 4; Impromptu in F Minor, Op. 142, No. 4; The Fair Rosamonde (air, with 5 variations), Op. 142, No. 3; Menuetto in B Minor, Op. 78; Waltz in A flat, Op. 90, No. 2.—Adapted from "The Great in Music."

#### Domestic Economy.

##### CREAKING BEDS.

A bed which creaks with every movement of the sleeper may be silenced by removing the slats, and wrapping their ends in newspaper before replacing them.

##### TO TAKE THE SHINE OFF CLOTH.

A black coat which has seen much service invariably acquires an undesirable shiny appearance. To remove this, rub it well with a piece of flannel which has been moistened with spirits of turpentine. After carefully going over the garment, hang it out in the air for some time till the smell of the turpentine has passed from it.

##### STAIR CARPETS.

When buying a stair carpet, get an extra yard or two, and turn in a piece at the top and bottom of each flight of stairs. This extra length will enable you to shift the carpet sometimes higher, sometimes lower, and so it will be worn evenly throughout its whole length. If this precaution be neglected, the carpet at the edges of the stairs will be frayed out while the untrodden part remains fresh and new looking.

##### WHEN ICING A CAKE

add a little sweet thick cream to the icing when mixing. It improves the flavor, and prevents danger of cracking when cut.

##### TO CLEAN MARBLE

pour some turpentine on a clean cloth, and rub the stained part with it. Zinc and tin things can be cleaned in the same way.

##### CLEAN LIGHT STRAW HATS

by brushing with flowers of sulphur, moistened with lemon-juice. Rinse well with clear cold water, but do not let the hat lie in the water and get soaked.

##### MARBLE FIREPLACES

are greatly improved in appearance if they are occasionally rubbed with furniture polish. Rub afterwards with a clean duster till it is smooth and shiny.

##### BISCUITS

that have gone soft through keeping should be spread on a tin, and put into a moderate oven for a few minutes. When cold they will be as crisp as ever.

##### NAIL-BITING, ETC.

An ingrowing toenail should be trimmed at the edges, and the middle of the nail slightly scraped in a V shape.

To break children of the habit of biting nails, dip the ends of the fingers in a solution of aloes.

Common baking soda is one of the best remedies for the removal of warts and corns. Bind on wet and moisten the soda several times a day. The warts and corns will quickly disappear.

Avoid highly-colored and perfumed soaps; the coloring is often injurious to the skin, and the perfume is frequently put in to counteract the odor of impure ingredients.

To possess a good digestion, and in consequence good health, the food should be eaten slowly and thoroughly masticated. Half the cases of dyspepsia are due to hurried eating and imperfect mastication.