

most of the manures or fertilizers *all through the soil*, and as deeply as the plant roots can possibly penetrate. The growth and vigour of all plants or crops depend chiefly upon a good supply of strong roots that stretch out far, and thus gather food over the widest extent of soil. If a flourishing stalk of corn, grain or grass, be carefully washed, so as to leave all its roots or rootlets attached, there will be found a wonderful mass of hundreds and even thousands of roots to any plant, and they extend off a long distance, frequently several feet—the farther the better to collect more food and moisture. Put some manure or fertilizer in place two feet away from a corn or potato hill, or from almost any plant, and a large mass of roots will go out in that direction. So if we mix manures or fertilizers well through the whole soil, they attract these food-seeking roots to a greater distance, and they thus come in contact with more of the food already in the soil, and find more moisture in dry weather. A deeply-stirred soil, with manure at the bottom, develops water-pumping roots below the reach of any ordinary drouth, and the crops keep right on growing—all the more rapidly on account of the helpful sun's rays that would scorch a plant not reaching a deep moisture.—*American Agriculturist for April.*

#### REPAIRING BUILDINGS.

The barns are usually empty at this season, and now is the best time to make any necessary repairs. If experience has shown the stables to be inconvenient, let the improvements be made before the barns are again filled. There may be some holes in the roof, and a little patching may save many times its cost, if done in season; in short, leaks of every kind about the farm buildings should be promptly stopped. Look well into the granary for mouse-holes, through which the profits of a whole field may pass. They may be closed with a strip of tin. The work of half a day in looking for and closing these places, may be the most profitable of any done on the farm. The roofs, the floors, the sides, the doors, and all other parts of the barns, should now be put in good order, and another coat of paint be applied if the last one is beginning to wear through. A stitch in time saves more than nine in such repairs.—*American Agriculturist.*

#### GREASING WAGGONS.

An ordinary farm waggon, one which, while it may be used nearly every day for heavy hauling, is seldom driven faster than the walk of an average farm team, should be greased well every Monday morning, as should be the cart; and by making a set time to do it, it will rarely be forgotten. A farm waggon, a spring one which goes to the mill, to market, and to divers other places, at an ordinary jog-trot, should be greased after it has run forty or fifty miles, according to the speed, while a light carriage, being driven faster, and having less surface or room for the grease, should be greased after it has run every thirty miles or so, always wiping the spindle clean and bright before applying the grease. For carriages use only sperm or castor oil, and only a few drops on each spindle; but for heavy business or farm waggons use the common axle-grease, free from salt.

#### GRASS AS A FERTILIZER.

Grass is the cream of the soil. Every element in its composition has been drawn from the soil; and if that grass were returned, as it should be, to the hungry land, every leaf and stem would add to the productiveness of the seed-bed. Yet a great many people who supervise the management of lawns and gardens direct every green thing in

the form of grass to be cast on the beaten track of the highway, as if such plant-growth, if allowed to decay where it grew, would exert a pernicious influence on the fertility of the land. There is no better fertilizer for lawns than the grass which the lawn-mower cuts down. The mown grass should never be raked off the lawn. If allowed to remain where it grew, every spear and stem will soon settle around the live roots of the growing herbage, where it will decay, and thus provide excellent pabulum for the roots that produced the crop. If grass and weeds must be raked off and removed, let all such accumulation be spread neatly around the vines of strawberries, or near the bushes of blackberries or currants. If weeds and grass be collected in a pile during hot and dry weather, every root and stem will soon die. All the grass, weeds, and grass-roots that can be collected together should be utilized for the purpose of mulching growing plants. Decayed grass will make rich land, and will keep the surface of the soil mellow.—*American Garden.*

#### A CLEAR CASE.

Auburn hair inclined to curl,  
Honest eyes and winning smile,  
Form to set the brain awhirl,  
Lips that might a saint beguile—  
That's the girl.

Taller than the maiden coy,  
Truthful, fearless, handsome, strong,  
Heart of gold without alloy,  
Haling ne'er 'twixt right and wrong—  
That's the boy.

Window panes festooned with rime,  
Leafless trees and hillsides bare,  
Town clock sounding midnight's chime,  
Street lamps glimmering here and there—  
That's the time.

Nestling at the mountain's base,  
With its one long, quiet street,  
Clasped in winter's white embrace,  
Quaint old village, prim and neat—  
That's the place.

Truant arm and shy embrace,  
Tender vows in willing ear,  
Kisses on an upturned face,  
Whispered "Yes, I love you, dear"—  
That's the case.

—H. A. F. in *New York Sun.*

#### POTATOES.

The past two years no crop has paid better for high manuring than potatoes. It is possible, with everything favourable, to get much larger crops of potatoes than are usually grown, and the difference between a crop of seventy-five bushels and one of two hundred bushels or over is much more than can be made by any amount of manuring with oats, wheat or other grains. The tendency of this is to induce farmers to save all the barnyard and stable manure they make for the fields intended for potatoes. Possibly for a single crop this may be the best use of manure to make the most money. But it must be remembered that the potato crop returns little to the land, and if it gets the first use of all the manure made it is likely to take more than is best for the maintenance of fertility.

There is something charming in nature and rural life. It is so natural, so pure, so unalloyed by the manoeuvring and the hypocrisy of social existence.

Perfect unity of the producing classes is the only thing that will ever compel the just recognition of that class, by greedy railroad kings and grasping monopolists.

Broad tires have many advantages for farm waggons. They are indispensable for drawing manure on land at any season, and their advantage in road use is that they improve the road bed, helping to fill up ruts made by narrow-tired vehicles. It is probable that broad tired waggons will in the future come into more general use for farm purposes.

#### HINTS FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

O happy, happy time of spring!  
On budding boughs the bluebirds sing,  
The rill meanders sparkling by,  
The wild-fowl northward swiftly fly.

If a glass stopper won't move, hold the neck of the bottle to a flame, the heat will expand the neck of the bottle before it can reach the stopper.

Too much starch should never be put on napkins. No one wishes to wipe his lips on a board, and a stiff napkin comes very near being a board.

There is a peculiar charm about a clean linen collar fastened with a simple pin; a white tie or soft lace at the throat, and nothing can take their place.

Spirits of ammonia diluted with water, if applied with a sponge or flannel to discoloured spots on the carpets or garments, will often restore the colour.

It is said, by a good housekeeper, that it does not at all injure pianos or other varnished furniture, to wash them off in tepid water, with a chamois skin.

Dress sleeves are fitted very closely to the arm; they are high on the shoulder and short at the wrist; linen cuffs are seldom used, because white cuffs of embroidery are worn outside the sleeve.

The Jersey tunic is a short overdress of Jersey webbing trimmed with soutache. It may be made useful as a polonaise to wear with the skirts of dresses after their basques have become shabby.

To those wishing to break off from tobacco, genetian root coarsely broken, chewed and the saliva swallowed, is recommended as an antidote to the craving for the weed that will at first be felt.

A simple and graceful overskirt has a deep, round, apron front that reaches to the foot of the underskirt. Several thick, full plaits are laid at each side of the apron, and the back has two full breadths of the material to be draped in soft folds.

An infant that had been accidentally drugged with laudanum, and was fast sinking to its fatal sleep, was saved by administering strong coffee cleared with the white of an egg, a teaspoonful every five minutes until the drowsiness had passed away.

The following is an old receipt for a salve which is not excelled by any in application to burns, cuts, bruises and sores of any kind. One hundred years may testify to its excellence. Two ounces of Burgundy pitch, half an ounce of bees-wax; one tablespoonful of lard. Melt and mix and keep it always ready.

When an old ingrain carpet has been turned inside out, and upside down until it is no longer presentable, have it out sewed and woven like a rag carpet. It then makes a good covering for the middle of a floor much used, as a dining-room or nursery. It is heavy enough to hold its place, and yet can be taken up frequently, and shaken. The uncovered part of the floor can be painted in some pretty, serviceable colour, at small expense.

MAHOGANY may be polished by rubbing first with linseed oil and then by a cloth dipped in very fine brick dust. Some hard woods have a natural polish and do not require a polishing medium. A fine gloss can be produced by rubbing with linseed oil and then holding shavings or turnings of the same material against the work in the lath. A very perfect surface can be obtained with glass-paper, which, if followed by hard rubbing, will give a beautiful lustre. Imstre can also be given to carefully finished surfaces by applying a small quantity of thinned varnish, shellac or "fillers," by a cloth, and carefully and thoroughly rubbing.