SCIENTIFIC NOTICES.

NO. IV.

THE INDIAN SUMMER.

cription of the peculiar appearances which cha-three or even four weeks, was produced by the racterize that varying portion of the year known in fires made by the Indians in the forests and this country by the name of Indian summer. Old prairies, in the same way as the dry fors of residents on this continent have had frequent Europe are produced by the burning of the moors, opportunities of observing the phenomenon in It must be remembered, that the phenomenon has perfection, while new comers may probably have gradually decreased as cultivation has passed been fortunate enough, within the last few years, further westward, and this fact is strongly confir-to have observed two or three days so entirely dif-matory of the truth of the above explanation. ferent in character from all the rest of the year, as clearly to entitle them to the above appellation. is well known; for instance, in 1819, they spread In former years, this late summer, which gene-rally occurred about the beginning of November, fearful conflagration along the banks of the Miraand consequently after the cold had begun to set michi, which extended over 6000 square miles, in, lasted for several days, or even for two or three produced a dark cloud, which extended over ten weeks: but at present, at least in our neighbour- degrees, in a southerly direction. These and weeks; but at present, at least in our neighbour- degrees, in a southerly direction. weeks; but at present, at least in our neighbour-inegrees, in a southerly direction. These and hood, we seldom see more than a day or two, and even then, the phenomenon is so slightly deve-loped, that it is difficult to determine whether it is a real Indian summer day, or only a warm autumnal one. As I said before, it is not neces-i phenomenon is observed here, we may fairly con-sary to describe the peculiar appearances, for they during the dry fors of Europe with this addition. during the dry fogs of Europe, with this addition. duration by the gradual retreat of the Indians, and that the weather is to all appearances much advance of civilization towards the coast, whereby milder.

hunting expeditions, and it usually follows imme- mer, that it was a common observation, that diately after those cold rains which are commonly clothes could not be hung out to dry at that period observed about the middle or end of October. The on account of the number of blacks floating in the temperature of the day appears warmer than might air. If this observation is really a correct one be expected at that season of the year, probably (and doubless many of the readers of the Agri-from the stillness of the air, but it freezes during culturist can speak of its correctness or incorrectthe night, and the mean temperature of the ness), the cause of the phenomenon will be at twenty-four hours is therefore not abnormal.

A somewhat similar phenomenon is frequently and almost regularly observed in some parts of Europe, as has been shewn by Dr. Mahlman; it is, however, of much shorter duration, and more variable-a circumstance not to be wondered at, when we consider the exceedingly variable climate of that continent.

Various theories have been proposed to explain this curious phenomenon, but there does not seem to be any reason for attempting to discover a cause different from that which produces similar from peculiar winds, which produce a copious this is said to cause the red colour of the sun; but, as Mahlman observes, the air is really much drier at that time than at almost any other season of the year; and if the red colour of the sun is to be ascribed to the presence of vesicular moisture in fogs are extremely prevalent?

By observation it has been found, that there is then withdraw the stoppage and let it run.

less rain during November than in any other month; were the phenomenon owing to wet fogs, we should naturally expect a frequent recurrence of rain, while it is found that in general the smoky appearance of the sky is diminished after heavy showers

It seems highly probable, that the Indian sum-It is scarcely necessary to enter into a full des- mer, which used formerly to prevail for two.

> That dry fogs sometimes exist on this continent, these periodical fires become fewer in number.

The name Indian Summer, seems to have been In conclusion, I will mention one fact which given to this period, from its being the time when has been stated to me by an old settler, who has the Indians were accustomed to start on their other observed the fully-developed Indian sum-In conclusion, I will mention one fact which once apparent, as after every great conflagration, and even in large towns, the rain brings down considerable quantities of carbonaceous particles, which when swimming in a dry atmosphere are usually denominated blacks. H. C.

NEW APPLICATION OF THE SYPHON .- The Ohio Cultivator describes the mode of washing sheep which some of the farmers of Trumbull county have adopted. The plan is to select a place near the bank of a stream where the ground is several feet lower than the surface cause different from that which produces similar of the water; then place a vat or trough large enough effects in Europe. According to some, it arises to hold one or more sheep. Then take a syphon made of tin or copper, eight or ten feet long and three or four deposition of moisture in the shape of fogs, and inches in diameter, and bent nearly in the shape of a triangle, the curve being made a little from the centre; place the short arm in the stream, and the long one outside of the bank, with a gutter made of board to conduct the water to the vat. This furnishes a constant stream, sufficient for washing expeditiously one sheep at a time, without at all disturbing the water in the canal. To set the atmosphere, why is it not seen during the early spring months, when, as is well known, so as to fill the tube nearly or quite full of water; then stop up the ends, and place it in a position for operation.