

is still good, and with a little patching will last several years longer. The roof of a woodhouse, which I helped to shingle with split and shaved chesnut shingles in 1830, bide fair, the last time I saw it, to last till 1875. The roof is very steep, and the shingles on an average were quite narrow. They were well laid, four and a half inches to the weather and two nails in a shingle. Some object to this, and say, but one nail should be driven into chesnut shingles, owing to their shrinkin and expanding so much under the influence of the sun and rain.—*Boston Cultivator*.

LOVE OF THE BEAUTIFUL.—There are many persons in this world who would scout the idea that there is any necessity or any use for people who are not rich, to make any provision for their ideal life,—for their taste for the beautiful. We can picture to ourselves utilitarian old hunks, sharp-nosed, shrivelled-faced, with contracted brow, narrow intellect, and no feeling or taste at all, who would be ready (so far as he was able) to ridicule our assertion, that it is desirable and possible to provide something to gratify taste and to elevate and refine feeling, in the aspect and arrangement of even the humblest human dwellings.—*Fraser's Magazine*.

THE PREDOMINANCE OF WATER IN THE COMPOSITION OF VEGETABLES AND ANIMALS.—Potatoes contain 75 per cent. of water (by weight,) and turnips no less than 90 per cent. which explains, by the way, the small inclination of turnip-fed cattle and sheep for drink. A beef steak, strongly pressed between blotting-paper, yields nearly four-fifths of its weight of water. Of the human frame (bones included) only about one-fourth is solid matter (chiefly carbon and nitrogen), the rest is water. If a man weighing ten stone were squeezed flat under a hydraulic press, seven and a half stone would run out, and only two and a half stone of dry residua would remain. A man is therefore, chemically speaking, forty-five pounds of carbon and nitrogen diffused through five and a half pailfuls of water. Berzelius, indeed, in recording the fact, justly remarks, that "the living organism is to be regarded as a mass diffused in water," and Dalton, by a series of experiments tried on his own person, found that of food with which we daily repair this water-built fabric, five-sixths are also water. Thus amply does science confirm the popular saying, that water is the "first necessary of life."—*Quarterly Review*.

THE PLACE FOR SUMMER ENJOYMENT.—It is pleasanter to spend the summer days in an inland country place, than by the seaside. The sea is too glaring in sunshiny weather; the prospects are too extensive. It wearies eyes worn by much writing and reading to look at distant hills across the water. The true locality in which to enjoy the summer time is a richly wooded-country, where you have hedges and hedge-rows, and clumps of trees everywhere: where objects for the

most part are near you; and, above all, are green. It is pleasant to live in a district where the roads are not great broad high-ways, in whose centre you feel as if you were condemned to traverse a strip of arid desert stretching through the landscape, and where any carriage short of a four-in-hand looks so insignificantly small. Give me country lanes: so narrow that their glare does not pain the eye upon even the sunniest day; so narrow that the without an effort takes in the green hedges and fields on either side as you drive or walk along.—*Fraser's Magazine*.

THE CURATIVE EFFECTS OF GRAPES.—Dr. Herpin, of Metz, has published a very interesting account of the curative effects of grapes, in various disorders of the body. They act, firstly, by introducing large quantities of fluids into the system, which, passing through the blood, carry off by perspiration and other excretions, the effluvia and injurious materials of the body; secondly, as a vegetable nutritive agent. Employed rationally and methodically, aided by suitable diet and regimen, the grape produces most important change in the system, in favoring organic transmutations, in contributing healthy materials to the repair and re-construction of the various tissues and in determining the removal of vitiated matters which have become useless and injurious to the system. Directed by a skillful physician this valuable curative agent can be made to produce the most varied effects on the constitution. It also possesses the advantage of being acceptable to most invalids. The treatment lasts for three to six weeks. The quantity of grapes to be consumed varies from one to four pounds a day, commencing with small quantities, which are gradually increased. The skins and seeds must not be swallowed. In the absence of grapes, the most beneficial effects may be obtained from dried raisins, provided a quantity of water, sufficient to satisfy the thirst they excite, be taken at the same time; or they may be stewed in the same manner as prunes.

THE CHAMELEON.—An officer in Africa writes of the habits of this animal:—"Assuming the habits of the chameleon may not be generally known, I will mention a few which came under my observation. One morning, I saw close to me a very large chameleon, hanging on a bush. I immediately secured him, and provided a cage for him. In the course of a few days he became quite familiar, and having seen them before, I knew how to gain his affections, which, in the first place, was done by feeding him well, and the next place by scratching his back with my finger. I used to put him on my table at breakfast, and in the course of a very few minutes have seen him devour at least fifty flies, caterpillars, and beetles in the most dexterous manner, with his slimy tongue; nor does he ever move from his position, but so sure as an unfortunate fly comes in reach, so sure he is caught, and with the facility of thought. In the forenoon I always