

**HOW TO RENDER CLOTH, SILKS, &c., WATER PROOF.**—Take one pound, each, of common alum, (sulphate of alumina,) and sugar of lead, (acetate of lead,) and dissolve them in six quarts of boiling water well mixed by stirring. When cold, the top portion of the mixture should be poured off for use, as the sediment consists of sulphates of lead, potash, &c. Any article of dress, no matter how slight the fabric, if well saturated with this liquid, and allowed to dry slowly, will bear the action of boiling water, and not permit it to pass through it.

**AMERICAN PRODIGALITY.**—No observing American comes from the United States to Europe, without soon becoming convinced that economy of living is nowhere so little understood as in his country; and that for nothing are the Americans more distinguished, than for a reckless waste of the means of subsistence. The refuse of many a family in the United States, even in moderate circumstances, would often support, in comfort, a poor family in Europe.—[Colman.]

**TO CURE A COUGH.**—The present winter has been characterised by the severity of colds, with which almost every body has been afflicted. We ourselves have had one, the most obstinate we ever had, confining us to the house for two weeks, and by an almost incessant cough forbidding us to sleep by day or night. We tried various remedies, until we wore them out without realizing any desirable effect, and at last heard of and tried the following, to wit: Take thoroughwort, heartbored, and pennyroyal, of each a good handful, and boil them in just water enough to extract the strength; then strain off the liquor, and add an equal quantity of molasses, and boil until it forms a candy. Eat freely of this very time an inclination to cough is felt, and your cough will soon leave you. After using this candy for half a day, we had a night of good sleep, and found our appetite much improved next morning.—[New England Farmer.]

**BLANKETS.**—A medical gentleman, who has had extensive practice, urges the importance of frequently washing these useful articles. Blankets have not only a great capacity for absorbing contagious matter, but will retain for a lengthened period the elements of that contagion in an active state. Not only will they communicate the particular infection with the subject of which they have been in contact, but will frequently excite other disorders to which different persons may be constitutionally liable. It is not sufficient to wash this coarse woollen fabric, it must be washed thoroughly and regularly. Visitors among the poor would do well to call attention to this matter, the importance of which is generally so little appreciated.

**AGE OF SHEEP DETERIORATES THEIR WOOL.**—It has been observed, by the most experienced wool-growers, that the older the sheep the less fine the wool. The wool is said to be of the best quality when the sheep is from two to five years of age; after that it deteriorates. Mr. Blanchard, of New York, states that he has known flocks that yielded wool that sorted number one when young, when older drop down to number two or three. Those who wish to grow the first grade of wool should keep young sheep. Some go so far as not to use a buck after he is four years old.—[N. E. Farmer.]

## MUSIC OF SPRING.

"There's music in the balmy breath  
Of spring, when from the realms of death  
She calls the flowers to life again,  
And decks with gorgeous hues the plain,  
Then wakes to notes of harmony  
The grove's enchanting minstrelsy.  
There's music in the murmur low  
Of gentle waters rippling by—  
There's music in the onward flow  
Of rivers in their majesty.  
There's music in the bubbling fountain—  
There's music on the sun-bathed mountain—  
There's music on the earth—  
There's music in the air—  
And music into birth  
Is bursting every where."

## RAPIDITY OF INSECT GROWTH.

We know of no growth in animal life so extraordinary as that of the larvæ of insects. We learn from the "Entomologist" text book, that:—"One naturalist, for example, discovered that the larvæ of the flesh-fly increase their weight at least two hundredfold during 24 hours; and another ascertained by minute calculations on data furnished by the cultivators of silk, that 1,206½ lbs. of leaves are eaten by the larvæ which issue from an ounce weight of the silkworm's eggs. 'It is to be observed, however,' remarks Mr. Westwood, 'that the stomach of these insects, like that of the horse, does not possess the power of dissolving these leaves in the most perfect manner, but only of extracting a juice from them. Indeed this very circumstance is assigned by John Hunter as the probable proximate cause for the voracity of herbivorous larvæ. And hence of the 1,206½ lbs. of leaves actually devoured, 745 lbs. are deposited as excrement in an indigested state. Hence it is evident, that in comparison with the stomach of the perfect insect, in which state but very little food is in general taken, (and in some cases the insect is even totally destitute of a mouth,) the stomach of a caterpillar, and its apparatus 'or taking its food, must be fully developed; and this is found to be the case, the stomach occupying a considerable portion of its interior, and the organs of the mouth being very robust.—The caterpillar of the goat-moth is three years in arriving at its full size, when it is 72,000 times heavier than when newly hatched; and a silkworm, weighing, when first hatched, 1-100 part of a grain, consumes in 39 days about 60,000 times its primitive weight."

## THE COMPOSITION OF BODIES.

We have cause, indeed, to presume, that whenever a particular element is generally present in a compound, and in definite proportion to the other ingredients, such element is essential to its nature, however small the proportion may be. This principle has been continually extended and confirmed, as chemical knowledge advanced, and becomes now the expression of phenomena, which may well astonish those not familiar with the subject. It is exemplified by the carbonic acid present in the atmos-