

small amount of seed that is used. It is the same defect that causes so many pastures to fail. We notice that Sutton & Co., the great grass seed dealers of Reading, England, prescribe three bushels of their lawn mixture as the quantity required to seed down a lawn, and we know that it is not any too much."

Matthew Crawford, of Ohio, makes lawns in the following way, saving the heavy labour or expense of turfing the whole surface: He first grades the ground carefully, then chops up sods into small pieces about three inches square, and sets them in regularly about a foot apart, pounding them down and making all even. The whole surface is then soon covered with grass, as the turf has only to spread a few inches on each side to meet between the pieces. Care is taken to keep out weeds.

A correspondent in an exchange says:—"The coarser, strong-growing grasses, well attended to, make a good covering for a lawn, but necessarily coarse in comparison to the finger-leaved June grass. A clover catch can also be secured by the latter, forming a thick, soft mat, the surface of which suggests the furry coat of an animal. Nothing can be compared to it for a door-yard or lawn. By fertilizing, rolling and frequent moving, I have established quite a nice green, but in no way comparable with that formed in the door-yard by the little blue grass. Part of my ground—a ditch and its border—was sown with timothy; ground and seed clean. The set was very crowded, and formed a very pretty sight, and is so still. But with all the pains I have taken—and the success is complete—it is coarse compared with the velvet of the small grass near it. The further difficulty with the larger grasses is that they grow too rapidly, requiring two or three cuttings per week, whereas the 'weaker-growing June grass' demands only one cutting during that time."

THE VIRGINIA CREEPER.

The London *Gardener's Chronicle* speaks highly of the ornamental effect of the Virginia creeper (*Ampelopsis*), when it has assumed its crimson hues in autumn, when the buildings which it covers "are clothed in a garb of great beauty, with its long, loose branches streaming in the wind, the colours almost as bright and vivid as the bracts of the Poinsettias. Planted in parks and pleasure grounds, so as to run up the trunks and about the branches of old oaks, the Virginia creeper gives life to the scenery and landscape, and exhibits in most pleasing contrast the more sombre hues."

SOWING SEEDS.

Joseph Harris, of Rochester, in his new seed catalogue, gives his young customers some good directions about sowing garden seeds. He says they should be covered only deep enough to keep moist, and that small seeds, such as of lettuce, radish, Drummond phlox, aster, verbeena and pansy, need not be covered deeper than a sheet of writing paper is thick. If pressed into the soil and kept moist, they need not be covered at all. Petunia seeds are easily covered so deep that they will not grow; while peas will grow if

covered two or three inches deep. We may add to the above, that for out-door planting it is a good rule to cover seeds to a depth of three to five times their diameter, and no more, so that large seeds like corn and peas will be many times deeper than the minute seeds of the portulaca. All must have the three requisites of warmth, moisture and air (but not light), and if buried too deep the air will be excluded. Peter Henderson finds great benefit in covering the seed, after pressing into the soil, with a thin coat of finely pulverized moss, evenly sifted on, and watered with a fine rose.—*Country Gentleman*.

CHEAP HOT-BED FRAMES.

It will soon be time to think about making hot-beds for starting early plants. Glass is so cheap that few persons will think of using anything else for covering the frames; but there are cheaper materials that will answer very well, besides being more speedily prepared. One of the best materials for covering frames, besides glass, is common white muslin, coated with the following composition:—Take one quart of linseed oil, one ounce of sugar of lead, and three or four ounces of rosin. Pulverize the sugar of lead in a little oil, then add to the other materials. Put all into an iron kettle and heat it until the rosin is dissolved and the other ingredients are thoroughly mixed; stretch the muslin upon the frames, and apply the composition while hot. Frames prepared in this manner will last for several years, if kept under cover when not in use.

GYPSUM, OR LAND PLASTER.

This is undoubtedly the best and cheapest fertilizer in the world, and is absolutely necessary in greater or less quantity to every sort of land. We notice that, except in the oldest and best farming districts in Ontario, plaster is used almost exclusively on the sandy soils. This is a mistake. Evidence given in connection with the great agricultural depression in England teaches us that *heavy clay land should be more extensively used for grazing, and far more plaster sown on it to make good meadows*.

Gypsum is composed of eighty-three parts of lime, forty-six of sulphuric acid, and twenty-one of water of crystallization. The fertilizing property of land plaster is entirely due to gypsum. This substance, when chemically pure, is absolutely white, any colouring matter being due to impurities, such as clay-shade, limestone, etc. From evidence given before the Ontario Agricultural Commission, it was conclusively proved that it is *impossible to adulterate white land plaster*, for the simple reason that there is nothing it would pay to adulterate it with, while the very colour and extra weight of grey plaster shows it is adulterated with limestone, clay-shade, etc., to what extent the chemist alone can tell. Therefore in buying land plaster that is *not white, so much money is thrown away on useless stone* which has no fertilizing properties, but has got mixed with the pure gypsum. American is grey; therefore our Canadian white should receive patronage from farmers, if only from the fact that the white is 30 per cent. purer.

CREAM.

THERE IS NO UNBELIEF.

Whoever plants the seed beneath the sod,
And waits to see it push away the clod,
Trusts he in God.

Whoever sees 'neath winter's field of snow
The silent harvest of the future grow,
God's power must know.

You cannot make a horse drink. It is different with men.

WHEN is a lamp in a bad temper? When it's put out, of course.

It takes a smart man to conceal from others what he doesn't know.

WHAT fruit does a newly-married couple most resemble? A green pear.

Through primrose tufts, in that sweet bower
The poriwinklo trail'd its wreaths;
And 'tis my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.

—Wordsworth.

THE most pleasant time to bathe during cold weather is last night or to-morrow morning.

"YES, sir," said Mr. Gallagher, "it was funny enough to make a donkey laugh. I laughed till I cried."

HENS scratch up flower beds only when they are barefooted. That's why women run out and "shoo" the hens to keep them from doing damage.—*New Orleans Picayune*.

SAID Edith to her doll: "There, don't answer me back. You mustn't be saucy, no matter how hateful I am. You must remember I am your mother!" We know several homes where Edith might have imbibed that principle.

"How do you pronounce s-t-i-n-g-y?" Professor Stearns asked the young gentleman nearest the foot of the class. And the smart boy stood up and said it depended a great deal whether the word applied to a man or a bee. "Go to the head, young fellow."

TWO PICTURES.

An old farm-house, with meadows wide,
And sweet with clover on each side;
A bright-eyed boy, who looks from out
The door with woodbine wreathed about,
And wishes his one thought all day—
"Oh! if I could but fly away
From this dull spot, the world to see,
How happy, happy, happy,
How happy I should be!"

Amid the city's constant din,
A man who round the world has been,
And 'mid the tumult and the throng,
Is thinking, thinking all day long:
"Oh! could I only tread once more
The field path to the farm-house door,
The old green meadow could I see,
How happy, happy, happy,
How happy I should be!"

LITTLE Isa, three years old, in her father's absence at business, happened to let a china plate fall. Her mother was very sorry for the accident, as it broke her set. At night she told her husband about it, and he said, "Why, Isa, how did you do such a careless thing?" "This way, papa," said she, quick as a flash, taking another plate from the tea-table and dropping it on the floor.

A LADY whose love of flowers and whose success in cultivating them are far in advance of her own culture, was heard by a passer-by to call to one of her family the other day, "Mary, go show her my bed of double spittoonias, that grow doubler and doubler every day." Then she added, "And when my salivas are bloomed out you must be sure and come and see them!"—*Elmira Free Press*.