

that I beg leave to call your attention. I have dearly bought this piece of information by the loss of two pigs; and a neighbour of mine has lost a fine sow by the careless use of the same salt.

It is well known that saltpetre has the valuable property of removing the taint of turnip-taste from butter; and a small quantity put into the churn with the cream renders the butter sweet and pleasant. In one case, the butter from one cow was made twice a week; and to this quantity about a teaspoonful of saltpetre was added, and the buttermilk given to the pigs (about two months old), after drinking the buttermilk, were very uncomfortable, and as little notice was taken of the affair, they got over it as best they might; however, it was not so on the next day of churning, for both pigs were taken violently ill, vomiting and purging; and when all hopes of saving their lives were gone, they were put out of pain by killing.

A veterinary surgeon, to whom I mentioned the circumstance, seemed astonished at the effects produced by so small a dose.

My neighbour's sow was poisoned by the saltpetre in a solution of salt and water for pickling meat. He was advised to give the sow salt and water for some trifling ailment, and this brine being ready, he gave her that, and the effect was immediate death.

Therefore, through the medium of your valuable paper, you will do well to warn your readers against using saltpetre in either food or medicine for pigs.

There is another article of food that requires to be used with caution; it is the Jerusalem artichoke, a most valuable vegetable when properly grown and cooked, but it is necessary to cook it in a good supply of water, and do not use any of the water in which it is cooked in any way either for man or for beast; it is consequently, unsuited for soups, unless first boiled and strained, and if the liquor is given to pigs, it scours them and disorders the stomach. Common sense dictates that potatoes should never be put into any broth or soup in a raw state, but should first be cooked and dried, and then compounded with other articles of food as required, for the liquor in which potatoes are cooked is not altogether harmless; although weakened by dilution, still the poison pecu-

liar to the tribe of solanacea exists, for it is not so volatile as to be driven off by heat as many suppose, but may be readily discovered by the sight and by the smell without any complicated chemical tests.

An instance occurred of a person of my acquaintance, when potatoes were scarce, using Jerusalem artichokes plain boiled, and they answered so well as a dish that he determined to experiment upon them, and made hodge-podge with plenty of these fine white tubers in it, and it had nearly proved fatal to one young man who ate heartily of it.

However, when the surgeon was sent for, and had made enquiry into the dietary, he found that his patient was suffering from artichoke liquor; and as the surgeon's pig had only just recovered from a similar complaint, caused by the boy that fed it having given the liquor, as well as the boiled vegetable, to it, he said he knew the complaint, but did not state the name or the standing of the patient that he had prescribed for, whilst suffering from a similar illness.—*An Old Gardener, but a Young Farmer.*

NORMAL SCHOOLS FOR RURAL DISTRICTS.

A well-digested system of agricultural teaching, embracing a whole district. I do not allude to the higher and more refined branches of agricultural chemistry, as these would be out of place in such a rudimental state of society; but I mean the best method of cultivating small farms, the raising of green crops, the husbandry of manure, house-feeding cattle, and other points of rural economy, which are essential to the successful culture of a croft. These we can never hope to inculcate by mere precept; we must have an example before the eyes of the people, and in a locality subject to the same peculiarities of soil and climate as their own land.

It has been objected that it is impolitic or impossible to teach children both book learning and practical agriculture by the same master, and that it would in consequence be useless to make parish schoolmasters agriculturists, for the purpose of instructing their boys in farming; but those who thus object do not know how well such combined teaching has already worked, nor do they consider that a change of occupation during