

of tanners, 48; of merchants and clerks, 47; of shoemakers, 43; of painters, 42; and of tailors, only 41. This well established fact that farmers have the advantage of almost all other men, and altogether of any other large class, in point of longevity, seems worthy of record, and of a place in the memory. It may subserve several purposes, and be of special service in moments when we get discouraged, or discontented, along with a glance at our other blessings and privileges.

BRINE OF HERRING AS A MANURE.—The *Journal d'Agriculture Pratique* publishes an article pointing out the great advantages to be derived from the use of the brine in which herrings have been cured as a manure for land. From an analysis made by MM. Girardin and Marchand, it has been found that 543 litres of this brine, giving a density of more than twenty degrees, contains as much azote or fertilizing matter as a cubic metre of farm manure weighing 800 kilogrammes, and 393 litres of brine as much phosphoric acid as a cubic metre of the manure. This brine, according to the experiments which have been made, is especially suited to land rich in carbonate of lime, the quantity to be used being not more than about 1,400 litres for a hectare of 2½ acres. It produces very marked effects on heat crops, increasing the produce both in grain and straw, and preserving it from smut; and when applied to rye, oats, colza, potatoes, and vegetables of all kinds; materially promotes their growth. It may also be used with great advantage in beetroot intended for feeding cattle, but must not be applied to that root when grown for the fabrication of sugar. This brine is applied in various ways. Some farmers spread it over the ground immediately after the crops are sown, while others mix it with the ordinary manure. From the quantity of herrings caught and pickled, it is calculated that 45,000 hectolitres of the brine might be annually devoted to agriculture.

DISTILLERS' GRAIN OR DRAFF which cattle-keepers have hitherto found so far from realizing their expectations in laying on fat, has, of late, when used, we understand by Mr. Finnie of Swanon, in feeding sheep with singular success. So testified Mr. Finnie of the advantage of the application of distiller's grain, both in respect of economy and improvement, that he has fully determined to feed his sheep stock this way throughout the ensuing winter.—Those whose farms are in the neighbourhood of distilleries might for their own satisfaction, test the desirableness of this mode of feeding on a small scale, and should they come to the same result, we shall have pleasure in receiving a communication from them on the subject.

Horticultural.

Hints for the Season.

Although stern winter has not yet released his frozen grasp, and the thermometer a few nights since ranged as low as zero, yet there are now and then unmistakable signs of the near approach of spring, when the gardeners will be so beset with work, as not to know which way to turn. Every thing, therefore, in advance of the busy season, should be now done that is possible. Future plans should be finally decided, tools for out-of-door operations should be got in readiness and repaired when needed, tubers and seeds examined or procured, with special regard to their health and purity; for the gardener or farmer can scarcely commit a greater mistake than the sowing of inferior seed, which is always dear at a gift. The price of the seed usually bears but a very small proportion to the aggregate amount of raising a crop, therefore we strongly urge our readers to procure *the best*, whatever the price, and to deal only with such parties in whom they can reasonably place confidence.

No time should be lost in getting matters ready for active operations, as soon as the weather and the state of the ground will admit. It is best, however, not to be in too much haste, as the weather in early spring is often treacherous, severe frosty nights sometimes following warm and sunny days. Before planting trees or putting in any principal crop, care should be taken not only that frost is perfectly out, but that the ground is dry, with but little chance of the return of strong, chilly winds, which are often so disastrous to newly transplanted trees, and vegetation generally. In this climate but little can in general be done in making the main crops in the kitchen garden, till the middle or end of next month, but the particular preparations should be now commenced. Hot beds should at once be made; and in this climate where there is such an absence of early spring vegetables, they will largely minister to the health and comfort of the family. With small outlay and little attention every one that has half-a-dozen yards of ground, can do something in procuring early salads and vegetables, which

Knit stockings were invented in Spain in 1550. Handkerchiefs were first manufactured at Paisley, in Scotland, in 1743.