

of spring, when it passes into the pupa, and afterwards emerges as the mature fly, at the end of April. The eggs laid by these flies soon hatch, and the maggots, after a few weeks, go into the little, brown, oval form of the "flax seed" state, and produce flies in autumn, thus completing the cycle in the life of this destructive pest of the farmer.

As a precaution, it is recommended to sow a part of the wheat early, and if afflicted by the fly, plough and sow the rest late in the season. If the pest is not abundant, the crop may be saved by the use of additional manure, or by cultivation. Pasturing the infested wheat field with sheep in late autumn will destroy many of the eggs and young insects. The same good results are obtained by rolling the crop. Only the hardy and more vigorous varieties of wheat should be sown in infested localities. There are a number of natural enemies of the Hessian fly, such as the Ichneumon parasites, whose combined efforts destroy nearly nine-tenths of all the flies that are hatched. The burning of stubble is therefore not recommended, as it will destroy the useful parasites in large numbers, as well as the pests upon which they prey.—*Amer. Agriculturist.*

#### PRICKLY COMFREY.

Much has been said, *pro* and *con*, in regard to the value of prickly comfrey as a forage plant. Having tried it for the last five years in a small way (some rows in my garden), I am prepared to express a favourable opinion of it. It requires rich land; but on such land, four cuttings may be made annually. Hogs and cows are fond of it, after they become accustomed to its use; and no doubt horses also will eat it. It is somewhat bitter, but stock soon get accustomed to this. I am feeding my hogs on it now (24th April); and no forage plant comes earlier into use than this, save rye and pink clover (called Swedish or German and perhaps French). It is propagated from division of the roots, and may be set out in April and May, or in the fall. In planting it, I would place it 3 feet by 2 feet, or 18 inches, digging a hole, and putting in it at least a peck of manure, and manuring annually. I have no analysis of it, but no doubt it is very nutritious. In chewing, it is found to be very mucilaginous. An acre of it would furnish a great deal of food, with its four cuttings, and on very rich land, no doubt five. It is but little affected by drought, and lives for years, perhaps perpetually, without renewing.—*Thomas Pollard, in Farmers' Union.*

#### DURABLE WHITEWASH.

Every farmer has more or less outbuildings and fences that are built of rough boards, that he does not feel that he can afford to paint with lead and oil, that could be covered very cheaply with whitewash, and thus greatly improved in appearance, and, what to most of farmers is important, made to last twice as long as if left exposed to the changes of weather.

The great drawback in common whitewash is the want of durability, it being necessary to renew it every year; but an improved preparation may be made, at a very low cost, that when properly put on will last some years and look very well. It is made as follows: For five gallons, slack six quarts of good lime in hot water, covering it up while in the process of slacking, to keep in the steam; when slacked, strain through a coarse cloth; add one quart of salt, prepared by boiling in water until dissolved, and the impurities have been skimmed off; also add one pound of alum, one-half pound of copperas, three-fourths of a pound of potash, four quarts of very fine

sand, and colouring to suit the fancy. This preparation should be put on hot; if properly done, it makes a durable paint. To make a brilliant white: To the amount of lime above mentioned, add one fourth of a pound of burnt alum, one pound of refined sugar, three pints of rice sugar, three pints of rice flour, made into a thin paste, and one pound of dissolved glue. This, like the other, should be applied hot. If the lime be good, it will make a very pure white that will last some years.—*Ex.*

#### THE WHEAT MIDGE.

The Wheat Midge was formerly regarded as an insect of the same genus with the Hessian fly, and was known as *Cecidomyia tritici*, but entomologists now rank it in a separate genus, *Diplosis*. In general appearance the parent insect much resembles the Hessian fly, but it deposits its eggs in the flowers of the wheat. The heads of wheat thus attacked are soon seen to shrivel, and upon examination there will be found numerous legless maggots, about one-twelfth of an inch long, and of an orange colour, among the forming grain, which are popularly known as midges; a portion of the larvae or midges go into the ground and pupate, while others are harvested with the grain. Some parasite insects help reduce the numbers of the midge, and so far as is known, deep ploughing, to turn those which have entered the ground so deep that they cannot make their way to the surface, and the burning of the refuse in the cleaning of the grain, are the only artificial helps suggested.—*Mrs. Treat's Injurious Insects.*

#### WEEDS ALONG THE ROAD SIDES.

Some farmers appear to forget that their land extends to the middle of the roadway, and that they have rights and duties in connection with the road-sides. At this season it is common to find by the way-side the largest weeds in the neighbourhood. They have had it all their own way, and this has been to ripen a large crop of seeds. Such neglect of the road-side is a great mistake, as it not only gives a neglected appearance to the street, but is a means of propagating weeds that do much damage to the crops in the adjoining fields. It does not matter how clean the cultivated crop may be kept, if weeds are left to grow just over the fence. It is too late now to do more than collect and burn these, but in doing this, the seeds should all be killed, to make the work of subduing these pests less burdensome in the future, besides adding to the attractiveness of the street.

#### CATTLE ON MEADOWS.

The editor of the *Mirror and Farmer*, in a trip into the country, counted eight cows and a horse running on a meadow that had just been cleared of its hay crop, and it struck him very forcibly that the owner had commenced cutting his 1883 crop a little early. This is a ruinous practice that no level-headed farmer will allow. It is cheaper to feed from the barn.

#### MOSS IN PASTURES.

A successful Hatfield farmer tells the *New England Homestead* that he restored to usefulness a pasture which had been completely overrun by moss, by the application of muriate of potash, at the rate of 300 pounds to the acre. The field had not been ploughed for twenty-five years, and the moss showed that it was pretty well run out. But after the potash was applied, not a trace of moss remained, and clover and various nice grasses took its place without re-seeding.

#### CREAM.

"A REPTACHUN," says Josh Billings, "once broken, may possibly be repaired, but the world will allus keep their eyes on the spot where the crack was."

"A FELLOW must sow his wild oats, you know," exclaimed the adolescent John. "Yes," replied Annie, "but one shouldn't begin sowing so soon after cradling."

A LITTLE boy who has been used to receiving his older brother's old toys and old clothes, recently remarked: "Ma, will I have to marry his widow when he dies?"

A PARIS manufacturer claims to have discovered an excellent cigar wrapper in eucalyptus leaves. But it can never take the place of the pure Havana leaf raised in Connecticut.

"He was the most perfect gentleman I ever saw," said a Kentuckian of Henry Clay. "When you went to see him, he handed you the whiskey bottle and then turned his back."

"WOMAN," quoth Jones, "are the salad of life, at once a boon and a blessing." "In one way they're salad indeed," replied Brown; "they take so much time in their dressing."

PHYSIOLOGY: "Mother, what have people got noses for?" asked an Austin child of her mother, who had seen better days. "To turn up at poor folks, my child," was the cynical response.

A LITTLE girl in Somerset, England, being requested to name the earlier writings of the Bible, glibly answered: "Davonshire, Exeter, Luticus, Numbers, Astronomy, Jupiter, Jumbo, Ruth."

A MAN asked for admission to a show for half-price, as he had out one eye. But the manager told him it would take him twice as long to see the show as it would anybody else, and charged him double.

EXAMINER: "Well, sir, we will now suppose that you have been called in to attend a patient who has taken a powerful dose of arsenic. What would you advise giving him?" M.D. (in embryo): "The last sacrament, sir."

FRIEND of the family (to the boy twins): "I'm afraid you little fellows don't always agree. You fight each other sometimes, don't you?" Twins—"Yeth, thir, thumtimth." Friend of the family: "Ah, I thought so. Well, who whips?" Twins: "Mamma whips."

THE most absent-minded man was not the man who hunted for his pipe when it was between his teeth, nor the man who threw his hat out of the window and tried to hang his cigar on a peg; no! but the man who put his umbrella to bed and went and stood behind the door.

"Young men," said a tiresome and instructive old muff to a group of apprentices, "young men should begin at the bottom of their business and work up." "I can't," responded one of them. "Why not?" asked the old muff. "Because I am a well-digger," answered the apprentice.

"I'm not going to school any more," said a little four-year-old boy to his mamma on his return from his first day at the kindergarten. "Why, my dear, don't you like to see the little girls and boys?" "Yes, but I don't want to go," persisted the boy; "'cause my teacher says that to-morrow she's going to try to put an idea into my head."

THE prize-in-every-package tea stores are at present the subject of a general crusade. When a man buys a fifty cent package of tea, expecting to get a \$5.00 prize, and takes it to the wife of his bosom, who opens it and finds therein a pewter spoon, he feels a yearning desire to go out under the silent stars, by the back fence and kick himself.—*Peck's Sun.*