

task to attempt to count the stars in one of these *globular clusters*. They are not to be reckoned by hundreds; and, on a rough calculation, grounded on the apparent intervals between them at the borders and the angular diameter of the whole group, it would appear that many clusters of this description must contain at least five thousand stars, compacted and wedged together in a round space, whose angular diameter does not exceed eight or ten minutes—that is to say, in an area not more than a 10th part of that covered by the moon.”—*Quarterly Review*.

A CHEAP CISTERN.—Every house-keeper knows the superiority of rain water for washing, &c., yet how few are prepared to realize this advantage, for want of a cistern to receive it. I will give a method for constructing a cistern on a very cheap plan, which every person who wishes can have, and which will do until they can make a better one:—Take any large vessel or cask, it need not be water tight, (a sugar hoghead will do,) knock one end out—then dig a hole in the ground where you want it to stand, about a foot larger in diameter than your vessel, and six inches deeper; then make some clay mortar, with which cover the bottom to the depth of six inches; then set in the vessel and fill up the space around it with mortar well crammed in, and your cistern is finished.—*Ohio Cultivator*.

EXCELLENT SPANISH CUSTOM.—A recent writer says: The domestic manners of the *Malanuenas* are well illustrated, by their customs in regard to sickness and death. When a case is pronounced *de cuidada* (of seriousness) the usual visitors of the house are expected to call, regularly, in person. To avoid the inconvenience which might be caused by this, the door of the front court is left open, and upon a table within, there is placed a bulletin of the patient's condition, with information as to whether the family are willing or not to see company. There are writing materials at hand, and each visitor leaves his name, departing, as he entered, without the use of bell or knocker.

TO CORRECT SOURNESS IN MILK, CREAM, AND BREAD.—It is not generally known that the sourness of milk and cream may be immediately corrected by the addition of a small quantity of the common carbonate of magnesia in powder. Half a teaspoonful (about equal to four grains) may be added to a pint of milk and cream, if only slightly sour; a larger quantity in proportion to the degree of sourness. From two to three grains may be added to every pound of flour to prevent sourness in bread—so injurious to health. Carbonate of soda is sometimes employed for the same purpose, but it communicates a very unpleasant flavour to the bread; and, in the case of milk or cream, is worse than the disease.

RECIPT FOR WASHING.—To every twenty gallons of warm water, add one bar of soap, seven tablespoonfuls of spirits of turpentine, and one of sal ammonia, and let the whole stand for one night. In the morning, put in the fine clothes, and let them soak one hour, or, if very dirty, one and a half hours; then take out, wring, and rinse well in clean water; wring and rinse again in *blue water*—then dry. The coarse linen may then be put in the same water, and undergo the same process. No rubbing is necessary, and the clothes will be perfectly clean and sweet.

NEW JERSEY MARLS.—It is well known that certain sections of New Jersey have been greatly improved in regard to the productiveness of the soil, by the application of marl. In Monmouth county, according to Professor Mapes, in the *Working Farmer*, “lands which ten years ago were worth but ten dollars per acre, are now producing large crops, simply by coating them with a few bushels of marl, taken from within a few feet of the surface.” This marl we understand to be what is called *green sand*. Professor M. states that some of it contains 13 per cent of potash, and that the quantity required to fertilize an acre, does not exceed one hundred bushels. Some of the marls, however, are said to contain an excess of sulphate of iron, and when they are applied in large quantities, injure vegetation. Professor M. observes, “that the continued use of marl, while it supplies many of the inorganic constituents of plants, must eventually cause the disappearance from the soil of all its inorganic matter, and hence the necessity of its renewal from time to time by the addition of decomposed peat, turf, river mud, and other inorganic matters.”

EXPLOSION OF AIR-TIGHT STOVES.—Prof. Horsford, in a paper lately read before the “American Academy of Arts and Sciences,” thus explained the phenomenon of the explosion of the so-called air-tight stoves. It is proper to remark that these accidents are latterly of rare occurrence, and with the self-regulating valve, which is now attached to the best of these stoves, it is believed such accidents would never happen. After the wood has been fired, and the supply of air for some time shut off, on reopening the draft, and sometimes without, occasional explosions of great violence have occurred, attended with the blowing out of the stove door, and in some instances producing still greater injury to the stove. The probable explanation is this. After firing the wood and shutting off the draft, destructive distillation commences. Inflammable gases issue from the wood, which, mingling with air derived from the pipe, or remaining still unconsumed, furnish an explosive mixture, which the first jet of flame, or perhaps the incandescent coal, causes to explode.

ANIMALCULES ON HUMAN TEETH.—Dr. H. J. Bowditch, of Cambridge, Mass., states as the result of many microscopic examinations of the accumulations on the teeth of healthy persons, that of forty-nine individuals, most of whom were very particular in the care of their teeth, animal and vegetable products were found in every instance except two. In those cases the brush was used three times a day, and a thread was passed through the teeth daily. Windsor soap was also used by one of those two persons, with the brush. Dr. Bowditch tried the effect of various substances, in destroying the animalcules, and especially tobacco, by which they seemed to be in no way incommoded. Soap-suds and chlorine toothwash invariably destroyed them.

RED CEDAR POSTS.—All kinds of Cedar are known to be very durable, but the heart of red cedar is perhaps preferable on this account to any other kind, and those parts of the tree which are most knotty, will probably last longest. E. Bourne, in the *Massachusetts Ploughman*, states that on examining some red cedar posts set by his father forty-eight years since, he found those which were taken from the butt-end of the tree a little decayed on the outside; but those from the second and third cuts of the tree, were perfectly sound.