

THE FARM.

SALT A PREVENTIVE OF DISEASE.—In the Australasian Veterinary Journal of June last a veterinary surgeon says:—"Salt, I find, prevents those blood and parasitic diseases so much talked about by scientific men who are trying to discover how these maladies are caused; but not one of them seems to think or say how the small organisms are to be destroyed. I ask you, how does salt cure bacon? Or, how does the cold air in the bottoms of ships keep fresh meat all right coming from Australia? Chloride of sodium—common salt—has a very forcible action, in fact, all the chloride family of medicines have, an organic life; and time is not so far distant when the use of salt to the land will be absolutely necessary to destroy the germs of micro-organisms—even to that of the germs of splenic fever as it is thrown off by the earth-worm."

Editor of the Times.—The statements recently published in your valuable paper have created much excitement in this city among the class who own and use horses, and after reading your request that all should write you who had been benefited by the letter published from Dr. Bates, in regard to the remarkable success he always had with Kendall's Spavin Cure, I decided to write my experience with it. My first knowledge of this remedy came through a visit to the office of the Massachusetts Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. This society was the first to use Kendall's Spavin Cure in Boston, and I was informed by Chas. A. Currie, a gentleman in whom I had the utmost confidence that they had never used anything that worked so well for spavins or any lameness in horses, and he stated that he gave it to poor men who had lame horses, and would agree to use it, and in this way he was enabled to get along without prosecuting them, as it was sure to cure when persevered with. Some time after this I received a very severe injury to the knee joint, and the high recommendation which Mr. Currie gave of Kendall's Spavin Cure, gave me so much confidence in it that I used it for my knee with the very best of results, and since that time my faith has been so strong in the merits of this remedy that we will not be without it in the house. I have tried it since that time for foot-rot, sore teats and warts on my cows teats, also for a general liniment for my horses and in my family and I sincerely believe, with all those who have written you before, that there was never so good a liniment for both man and beast ever discovered before. Hoping you will continue to give us more light on this subject I am,

Yours very truly,
ROBT C. AYER.
Boston, Mass., Oct. 1, 1881.

FALL TREATMENT OF GARDENS.—

We cannot too often repeat the advice that if gardeners will use the fork and turn the soil up full fork deep and allow it to remain in lumps all winter exposed to the frosts, it will put the soil in excellent condition, and tend greatly to add to the production of next year's crops. This is especially the case with ground not so treated frequently, and we would mention that every other year is best, instead of every year as some gardeners do. Gardens, and especially old ones, should also be limed about twice in five years, and salted about every other spring, applying of lime about thirty bushels to the acre and of salt from eight to ten. In applying salt keep it from coming in contact with box edging and all other evergreens, very small trees, etc. Such a course will bring up your old gardens in a surprising manner. Turnips, radishes, etc., will grow as well as they ever did, and all other vegetables be largely benefited.

To keep seeds from the depredation of mice, mix some pieces of camphor with them. Camphor placed in trunks or drawers will prevent mice from doing them injury.

Fowls like cabbage winter. In fact, if they have the run of the cabbage patch in summer there will be none left for winter use.

SCIENCE.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.

Mr. Edison's system of providing an incandescent electric light for domestic use in a given district has, a New York correspondent says, just been put to a practical test in that city. The district selected occupies an area of nearly a square mile. Only one source of supply is provided, and that furnishes the illuminating power for 16,000 lamps, the electric current passing through eighteen miles of mains. The result is that the severest demands which the consumers have been able to make upon the new system have been satisfied. No new obstacle has presented itself to the success in practice of Mr. Edison's theory; and scientific men, as well as the general public, will be interested to know that this first practical experiment demonstrates the soundness of the inventor's application of the multiple arc system, pure and simple, as distinguished from the series system, or the combination of the arc and series systems. Throughout the entire district lighted as described, each lamp was independent of all the others. On the inquiry before the Select Commission of the British House of Commons, Dr. Siemens said it was impossible to supply electricity for domestic lighting from one source over a greater area than a square quarter of a mile. On Monday night, if the correspondent may be fully trusted, although only 5,000 lamps were lighted, they were distributed over the entire district of the square mile. In the district there were 1,500 consumers of gas, of whom 1,100 have subscribed for the electric light. There is manifestly a great future for the electric light, though gas, if it has lost—and happily so for the consumer—its exclusive monopoly, is capable of serving the public in so many ways beyond lighting purposes, that it has little to fear if the companies act wisely, and cease to treat customers as though they existed solely for the benefit of shareholders.

A VIGOROUS MUSHROOM.—The enormous power of cell growth was strikingly illustrated a short time since in a grain elevator at Buffalo, N. Y. The asphalt flooring was over a foot thick, in two layers, the upper layer was 7 inches thick, laid hot, rolled down, and thoroughly cooled four years ago. Below was an old floor of tar and gravel, 6 inches thick. A curious bulge in the floor was first noticed, covering about a square foot. In six hours the floor was burst open, and a perfectly-formed mushroom, with a stem 2 inches through and a very wide cap, made its appearance. Elsewhere the floor is smooth and unbroken.

Chemists are generally agreed that plants require seven different elements from the soil in order to make a healthy growth. These are phosphorous, potash, magnesia, lime, sulphur, iron and nitrogen. Other elements are often found, sometimes in great quantity, such as silica, soda chloride, etc.; but as many plants have been grown to perfection without them, their presence is not considered essential. Last year, at an English experiment station, turnips planted in pure sand, and supplied with everything except phosphate, merely lived without gaining in bulk. But on ground coprolite being applied, the produce, even in that miserable soil, at once went up to twenty tons an acre.

Dr. Houghton, of Dublin, in a paper read before the Science Association at Montreal, deduced from certain apparent facts respecting the condition of several of the planets, that the earth and moon, when they separated from the solar nebula, did so in the form of solid meteoric stones, each of them having the temperature of interstellar space—that is, a temperature not much above 460° Fahrenheit below the freezing point of water.

MEASURING BY THE EYE.—A correspondent of the Boston Transcript suggests that children should be exercised in measuring by the eye. He says that years ago, when he went to school in a little weather-beaten school-house, the scholars had most exciting contests over the teacher's favorite exercise of having

them estimate, with the eye, the size and weight of different objects in the room.

He would hold up his cane, and have each scholar tell how long it was; and it was a lucky child that could come within half a foot of the right length.

He would measure an urchin, and then have the scholars try to reproduce the measure on the wall. He would mark off an inch, or a foot, or a yard, in some conspicuous place, and then see how near anybody could come to chalking the same length on the blackboard.

And it was astonishing how wide one would go. The fact is, our eyes deceive us ridiculously, even upon the commonest things.

At first thought, which would you say was the taller, a three year old child or a barrel of flour? And could anything but actual measurement convince you that the same child is half as high as a six footer?

There is an old saying, that a child two years old is half as tall as he ever will be; and, after a few experiments in measuring, one can easily believe it, but not before.

VARIETIES.

There is a Church in Michigan which has been struck by lightning a dozen times, and now, whenever the preacher shows signs of getting long-winded and passing from his "seventhy" to an "eighthy," the organist slyly imitates the sound of approaching thunder on the pedals. The way that preacher dives into the "conclusion" and rushes through it and starts the doxology is a caution. The congregation would not part with that organist for a million of dollars.

At a Paris circus a clown amuses the audience every night by singing a duet with a dog, who is trained to howl in a melodious manner at given moments. Recently the duet was unexpectedly turned into a trio, to the intense delight of the spectators; for a small English terrier, quietly dozing on the knees of his mistress, excited by the vocal display of the four-footed performer joined in, with a fine baritone voice.

If you sleeplessly toss on your pillow
And long for a space of repose,
Just be still as a tomb or a willow
And think of the end of your nose.

See that never a thought goes to wonder
White softly your eyelids you close;
And be sure that but one thing you ponder—
Keep your mind on the end of your nose!
Louisville Courier-Journal.

A quaker's advice to his son on his wedding day: "When thee went a-courting I told thee to keep thy eyes wide open. Now that thee is married keep them half shut."

Several Sundays ago a Philadelphia gentleman took his little son on a railway excursion. The little fellow was looking out the window when the father slipped the hat off the boy's head. The latter was much grieved at the supposed loss, when papa consoled him saying he would "whistle it back." A little later he whistled and the hat reappeared. Not long after the little lad flung his hat out of the window, shouting: "Now, papa, whistle it back again!" A roar of laughter in the car served to enhance the confusion of the perplexed papa. Moral: Don't attempt to deceive little boys with plausible stories.

'What does trans-Atlantic mean, mamma?'—'Oh, hold your tongue, and don't bother me with any more questions. But I'll tell you this, and then you keep still. Trans-Atlantic means across the Atlantic.' 'There!' 'I wanted to ask what transparent means, mamma; but I guess I know now, it means a cross parent.'

An Arkansas editor, in retiring from the editorial control of a newspaper said:—"It is with a feeling of sadness that we retire from the active control of this paper, but we leave our journal with a gentleman who is able than we are financially to handle it. The gentleman is well known in this community. He is the sheriff."

'Have you got a copy of Milton's "Paradise Lost"?' asked Gilbooly of Colonel Schneider McGinnis, "What in the world is that?" replied McGinnis. "It's a book," responded Gilbooly. "No, sir, I have not got such a book. When ever I find any thing that's lost I return it to the owner. When did Mr. Milton lose his book, and what reward is he offering for its return?"



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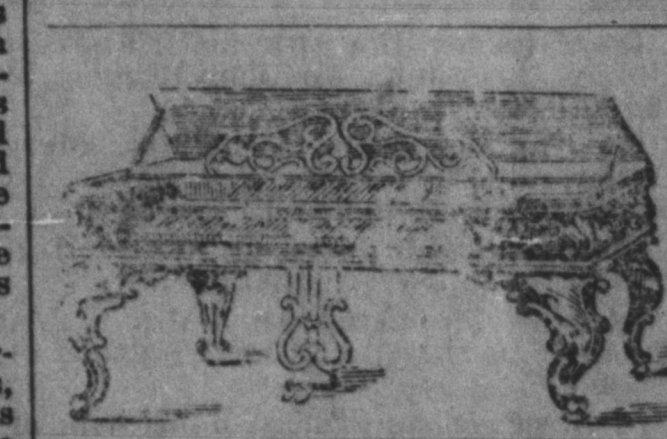
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