## THE HOUSE.

TO OIL A FLOOR.—If the cracks are open, these are filled with plaster of Paris calcined as for masons' use. The whole floor is then sandpapered and then oiled. When the oil is soaked in, it is sandpapered again and then rubbed with a woolen cloth dipped in a mixture of one part of bees-wax, one part of corn starch and two parts of linseed oil melted and mixed together and put on hot. This is well rubbed in, and a last rubbing is given with linseed oil. Burned umber or brown ochre may be used instead of starch if the colour is agreeable. Frequent rubbing in time makes a handsome polished floor.

THE CRITICAL PERIOD.—From the age of forty to the age of sixty a man who properly regulates himself may be considered in the prime of life. His mature strength of constitution renders him almost impervious to the highest attacks of disease, and all the functions are in order. Having gone a year or two past sixty, he arrives to the critical period of existence. The turn of life has a turn either to a prolonged walk or unto the grave. The system and power having reached their utmost expansion now begin either to close, like flowers at sunset, or break down at once. One injudicious stimulant, a single fatal excitement, may force it beyond its strength.

A correspondent of the *Germantown Telegraph* keeps rats out of his granary by daubing all the angles on the outside of the building with hot pine tar, to the width of three or four inches, and also any seam or crack where a rat or mouse can stand to gnaw. This is certainly a cheap expedient—if efficient.

TO CLEAN SILVERWARE.—Save water in which potatoes have been boiled with a little salt; let it become sour, which it will do in a few days; heat, and wash the articles with a woollen cloth, rinsing in pure water, dry and polish with chamois leather. Never allow a particle of soap to touch silver or plated ware.

FOR SOFT CORNS.—Soak the feet well in hot water before going to bed, then pare the corn, and, after having just moistened it, rub a little lunar caustic on the corn and just around the edge, till it turns light gray. By the next morning it will be black, and when the burnt skin peels off it will leave no vestige of the corn underneath. Of course, the corn is liable to return, but not for some length of time. Or, scrape a bit of common chalk, and put a pinch of the powder on the corn at night, binding a piece of linen round. Repeat this for a few days, when the corn will come off in little scales.

GOLDEN PUDDING.—Half a pound of bread crumbs, quarter of a pound of suet, quarter of a pound of marmalade, quarier of a pound of sugar, four eggs; mix the suet and breadcrumbs in a basin, finely minced, stir all the ingredients well together, beat the eggs to a froth; when well mixed put into a mould or buttered basin, tie down with a floured cloth, and boil two hours. Serve with powdered sugar over it.

Squash is a more delicate material for pie than pumpkin to make a good squash pie: "Do not attempt to make a squash pie unless you have at least three eggs to spare for each pie. Beat the eggs till they are as light as it is possible to make them; then beat the eggs and squash together till it all looks foamy; add milk enough to thin it sufficiently; bake in a moderate oven, and success is certain."

Onions cut up with food for chickens are said to be an effectual remedy for chicken cholera. A little ground ginger mixed with their meal once every day or two is also beneficial when symptoms of cholera appear.

QUICK PUDDING.—Scald a quart of milk; take three tablespoonfuls each of flour and cold milk, add three eggs and beat well together; pour in the milk, stir well together and bake half an hour. Eat with a sauce of butter and sugar stirred to a cream.

Try buttermilk for removal of freckles, tan and butternut stains.

## THE FARM.

MOULTING.—The moulting season for hens occurs about this time, and as fowls are not then laying eggs they are apt to be neglected. This is mistaken policy. Shedding their feathers and producing a new growth exhausts the fowls' strength, and if not well fed they are a long time in recovering. Generous treatment now will insure an early resumption of egg production and plenty of eggs next winter when they will command the highest prices.

Hyacinths may be grown in pots from four to six inches in diameter. Fill the pots with a light, rich soil, and then press the bulb down into it, and press the soil down around the bulb, to finish the operation. If potted loosely they will not thrive; If potted too firmly they will rise up as soon as they begin to grow, and be one-sided. After potting they should have a good watering, and be left a day or two until the surface of the soil begins to dry, when they should be placed in a cool, dark cellar. There they may remain for several weeks to allow the roots to get a good start. If brought to the light gradually, and a few at a time, a succession of flowers may be kept up through the winter.

The potato crop of Europe is 40 per cent. below that of last season. This, with the unexpectedly short crop of cereals, will cause a large demand for American agricultural products.

A writer in the *Philadelphia Record* strongly advises keepers of stock to grow peas and beans as better feed than corn for growing animals. They will not fatten stock as rapidly as corn, but corn will not make the stock grow as quickly as the legumes.

COWS IN WINTER.—We often hear dairy-men talk as if the height of skill in taking care of cows in the winter was to get all the hay down that it is possible to cram into them. "I give my cows all the good hay I can get them to eat," is the boastful remark often heard from a spirited and aspiring dairyman, though in doing so he is wasting good provender without promoting the best welfare of his animals. It is a good thing to feed cows well, and to be sure that they have food enough to sustain them fully; but it is neither wise nor economical to crowd them with a great bulk of hay of any quality. It is not wise to crowd any animal with a great bulk of coarse food. Cows should have no more hay than they have time to re-masticate, and if this is not enough for their necessities they should have some easy digesting, concentrated food along with it. The quantity of hay given should never exceed what they will eat up clean, and twice a day is often enough to give time for properly ruminating.—*National Live Stock Journal.*

The use of the word "grade," applied to an animal which is a cross of some pure breed, or improved breed on the common stock of the country, is purely American. Came into use from grading wool by breeding Merino on the common stock of this country. Sheep writers speak of grade sheep, or sheep producing a given grade of wool. This practice introduced the term "grade" into the American stock-grower's vocabulary.

KICKING COWS.—Take a snap-ring, attach a half-inch cord about a dozen feet in length, put the snap in the kicker's nose, draw the cord around her, letting it rest on her gambrel joints, or below. Let a person stand at her shoulder and hold the cord just tight enough that it shall not slip down to the floor. Any one can then proceed to milk her without trouble. This course of treatment pursued for one week, it is said, has never failed to cure the most obstinate kicker, and without any struggles or harness.

Try a hot flannel over the seat of neuralgic pain and renew it frequently.

Try cranberry poultice for erysipelas.

## SCIENCE.

A sulphur mine in Sicily was recently set on fire in a very curious manner. A waggon loaded with sulphur was being drawn up an incline, when the rope supporting it broke, and the waggon rushed back into the mine at a frightful speed. The rapid motion developed heat enough to set on fire the highly combustible ore, and the flames spread so quickly through the mine that thirteen workmen were unable to escape, and thirty or forty others were seriously injured.

One of the hardest woods in existence is that of the desert ironwood-tree, which grows in the dry wastes along the line of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Its specific gravity is nearly the same as that of *lignum-vitæ*, and it has a black heart so hard, when well seasoned, that it will turn the edge of an axe, and can scarcely be cut by a well-tempered saw. In burning it gives out an intense heat.

CHEAP BLACK PAINT or varnish for iron work: Clear (solid) wood tar 10 pounds: lampblack or mineral black, 1½ pounds; oil of turpentine, 5½ quarts. The tar is first heated in a large iron pot to boiling or nearly so, and the heat is then continued for about four hours. The pot is then removed from the fire out of doors, and while still warm (not hot) the turpentine mixed with the black is stirred in. If the varnish is too thick to dry quickly add more turpentine. Benzine can be used instead of turpentine, but the results are not so good. Asphaltum is preferable to cheap tar.

Mica in stoves when smoked, is readily cleaned by taking it out and thoroughly washing with vinegar a little dilutep. If the black does not come off at once, let it soak a little.

STAINING FLOORS.—Put one ounce Vandyke brown in oil, three ounces pearl ash and two drachms dragon's blood into an earthenware pan or large pitcher; pour on the mixture one quart of boiling water, and stir with a piece of wood. The stain may be used hot or cold. The boards should be smoothed with a plane and sandpapered; fill up the cracks with plaster of Paris, and use the brush, not across the boards, but lengthwise, and coat only a small space at a time. When quite dry, size the floor with glue-size, made by boiling glue in water, and brushing it into the boards hot. When this is dry, sandpaper them, and varnish with brown, hard varnish.

## VARIETIES.

Water spouts — Temperance orations.

Difficult punctuation—Putting a stop to a gossip's tongue.

The physician's motto — "Have patients and you will succeed."

Why is a washerwoman like a navigator? Because she spreads her sheets, crosses the line, and goes from pole to pole.

"Did you know," said a cunning Yankee to a Jew, "they hang Jews and donkeys together in Poland?" "Indeed! then it is well that you and I are not there," retorted the Jew.

"I'm glad Billy had the sense to marry a settled old maid," said Grandma Winkum at the wedding. "Gals is hity-tity, and widders is kinder overrulin' and upsettin'. Old maids are kinder thankful and willin' to please.

A man made application for insurance on a building situated in a village where there was no fire-engine. He was asked, "What are the means in your village for extinguishing fires?" "Well, it rains sometimes," he replied.

As a lazy tramp came down the street
With free and easy gait,
This welcome sign his eyes did greet:
"Free chop to those who wait"
"Now here," he said, "I'll get some food,
Without the slightest tax";
But they led him to a pile of wood,
And handed him an axe.

The love that a true mother feels for her child, comes the nearest to a divine touch of anything God has shown us in human nature.

Man may study nature, science and art, but he can never learn from them all what is the soul.

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