THE FARM.

A lady, writing about raising roses in pots in the house, reaches the conclusion that the one evident object in buying roses is to cultivate the first-class virtues. You show "faith" in buying one, cultivate "hope" in keeping it, and you will need all the "charity" you can muster to keep from pitching it out of doors.—*Exchange.*

ROSES FROM CUTTINGS.—European horticulturists have adopted a mode of making rose cuttings root with more certainty, by bending the shoot and inserting both ends into the ground, leaving a single bud uncovered at the middle and on the surface of the ground. The cuttings are about ten inches long, and are bent over a stick laid flat on the ground, holes being dug on each side of the stick for the reception of the ends of the shoot. The roots form only at the lower ends of the shoot, but the other end being buried, prevents evaporation and drying up. A correspondent of the London *Garden* states that he has tried this, along with the old mode, and that, while the weaker cuttings of the latter have shown symptoms of drying and failure, all the former have grown vigorously.

SCIENCE.

The largest oil well in the world was struck in Cherry Grove, Warren County, Pa., on the 15th. It belongs to the Anchor Oil Company, and flows at the rate of 3,000 barrels per day. The Murphy well and No. 646 are sending up 100 barrels per hour.

Diving for black pearls employs a large number of men and boats off the coast of Lower California. Traders supply the vessels and diving apparatus upon the stipulation that the pearls that are found are to be sold to them at specified rates. These jewels are of much beauty and highly prized. A year's production is worth on an average from $500,000 to $1,000,000.

Dynamogen is the name of a new explosive invented by M. Petri, a Vienna engineer. If the enthusiastic claims of the inventor are not an exaggeration of its merits it will certainly prove a dangerous rival of gunpowder. According to his description it contains neither sulphuric acid, nitric-acid, nor nitro glycerine, and cannot injure in any way either gun or cartridge. The charge of dynamogen is in the form of a solid cylinder, which can be increased in quantity, without being increased in size, by compression. The rebound of the guns with which the new explosive has been tried is said to have been very slight. It is also said that the manufacture of dynamogen is simple and without danger, that it preserves its qualities in the coldest or hottest weather, and that it can be made at 40 per cent. less cost than gunpowder.

THE JONES' SEXTUPLEX.—Once having passed from the transmission of one message to two messages upon a single wire between distant cities, and again from two to four and from four to five, it might appear easy steps to progress farther in this direction. But the difficulties increase vastly as the greater number is attempted. By Mr. Jones' ingenious method three telegraphic messages can be sent simultaneously in each direction over one conducting wire. In order to raise the value of a quadruplex to a sextuplex it was necessary to invent an entirely new quadruplex, to be operated upon by straight or unreversing currents, and in this system the addition of the Siemen's polarised relay and ordinary pole-changing keys would render possible the six-message transmissions. No such system has been produced except one by Mr. Jones. He has now added a remarkable advance upon his former invention, and the new system has been worked with success upon some short lines. It was tried on the Western Union line, between New York and Philadelphia, in January last year, with very satisfactory results, but the high potential current used with the experimental apparatus at the time could not be then trusted upon the defective cables across the Hudson River.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR BLASTING.—There is a well-grounded suspicion that some colliery explosions are caused by the practice of firing "shots"—that is exploding gunpowder tamped into borcholes. Great care is taken to avoid as much as possible any flame which would ignite the gases, but the suspicion is mainly based on the fact that the concussion forces the air through the lamps, and thus fires the explosive atmosphere by driving the flames through the gauze. Coal is not so easily obtained that miners are willing to dispense with blasting, and consequently great opposition has always been offered to any proposed legislation for prohibiting the firing of gunpowder "shots." An ingenious plan, by which all risk is avoided, was described by Mr. Mosely at a meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute held recently. The working face of the seam of coal is undermined on the floor level in the usual way, and a borehole is made near the roof, as if a gunpowder charge were to be used. Instead of filling the hole with the dangerous powder, a cartridge of specially-prepared lime, in a highly caustic state, and compressed almost into a solid, is placed in the bore—a pipe from a small force-pump being laid in a groove formed in the cartridge. When the charge has been properly rammed, the force-pump is worked, and, the water coming in contact with the lime, steam is generated, and the lime itself also expands. The action of the steam cracks the coal away, and the force of expansion of the lime brings the coal down in large masses, with the minimum of small, and without any of that risk of exploding the gases which is necessarily present when gunpowder is fired. The system has been found successful in several collieries, and, although it takes a longer time than the blasting method, it has the great merit of safety, and will probably be adopted in many fiery mines.

SOLAR HEAT FOR BUILDINGS.—Professor E. S. Morse has devised a simple plan for utilizing the solar heat in warming buildings. The invention consists of a surface of blackened slate under glass fixed to the sunny side or sides of a house, with vents in the walls so arranged that the cold air of a room is let out at the bottom of the slate and forced in again at the top by the ascending heated column between the slate and glass. The outdoor air can also be admitted, if desired. Of course, this can only be depended on as an adjunct to artificial heat in dwellings; but its advantages in keeping churches and other buildings not in use all the time from becoming cold in the intervals of use are obvious. Such an arrangement, the practicability of which is said to have been fully shown, would considerably reduce the cost of heating, both in public and private buildings.

THE LIFE OF ICEBERGS.—The extraordinary number of icebergs which have been met with in the Atlantic during the last few weeks, whereby several ships have been placed in imminent danger of complete destruction, has again drawn attention to this serious peril of Atlantic navigation. To the ordinary danger of collision with an iceberg at night, to which may be attributed the loss of several Atlantic steamers which have left port in a perfectly well-equipped state never to be heard of again, there is added the dangeu—a comparatively rare one until the present season—of ships being caught in a large ice-floe and crushed to pieces if they were engaged in Arctic exploration. Such a catastrophe in mid-Atlantic would afford little hope of the rescue of a single soul on board the ill-fated ship. The report of the steamer *Mark Lane*, which arrived lately at Halifax, N. S., from Dundee, gives a vivid idea of the dangers which a vessel so entrapped must run. For three weeks the vessel was encompassed by the ice, and so closely did the huge icebergs at times come, that it was feared the ship and crew would be crushed between them. The coal being exhausted, the whole of the wood available was obtained and burnt, and at last the shipping boards and even the topsail were broken up for this purpose. Other vessels have reported meeting with vast ice-floes extending over an area of many hundred square miles, besides innumerable isolated icebergs, whose slow progress southward is a serious obstacle to the safe progress of shipping. An important question to determine is the extreme point to the south to which it is possible for an iceberg to be carried—in other words, what is the probable "life" of an iceberg as soon as it passes the shores of Newfoundland on its southerly progress towards gradual destruction. An American contemporary suggests that two or three men-of-war might be usefully engaged in this work, carefully observing the course of an iceberg from a point in the far north to the moment of its total disappearance beneath the rays of a tropical sun, and taken daily notes of its gradual reduction in size. It ought not, also, to be difficult to organise a system by which icebergs could be supplied with two or three lamps, constructed to burn for the necessary length of time, so that they might be easily observed at night; and, finally we repeat the suggestion made in these columns a year or two ago, that if men-of-war are employed on "iceberg police duty," they might gain practical experience in the use of torpedoes by destroying the larger specimens by means of those deadly submarine engines, for practical experiments with which they have so few opportunities.—*Colonies and India.*

VARIETIES.

A village schoolmaster, in examining a class, asked the boy at the head of it, 'What is artificial manure?' 'I don't know, sir,' said he; and the same reply was given by several others of the children. But a precocious youngster, not yet in his teens, was equal to the occasion, and when it came to his turn, shouted, "Please, sir, it's the stuff they grow artificial flowers in."

The fact that a quart of pins, hair pins, and needles was lately found in a mouse's nest at Newton Lower Falls, in pulling down the piazza of an old hotel may not be a fact of importance in itself. Nevertheless, a partial solution of the puzzle of generations as to what becomes of the pins, is furnished by this Massachusetts mouse.

Immediate death was predicted to await the sixteen small-pox patients who were capsized in the bay at San Francisco and then exposed in wet garments to a cold wind an hour and a half before reaching the pest house. The result was, however that they all recovered from their disease with surprising rapidity. Wouldn't it be strange if the great remedy for small-pox should hereafter be cold salt water baths? The use of ice water in the case of fever is not more singular.

A little fellow wanted his parents to take him to church with them. They said he must wait until he was older. "Well," was the shrewd suggestion, in response, "You'd better take me now; for when I get bigger I may not want to go."

A minister at Richmond, Va., recently swooned while marrying his old sweetheart to another man. If his part of the ceremony made him swoon, what nerve the man who was married must have had to stand up under it!—*Boston Post,*

A little girl having been reproached with disobedience, and breaking the commandments of God, sighed and said, to her mother, "O, mamma, those commandments break awfully easy."

The London *Times* is not proof against typographical errors. The recent announcement of the death of the Duke of Grafton appeared thus in its columns: "On the 21st inst, at 4 Grosvenor place, William Henry, Deeke, of Grafton."

A little boy who had committed a fault was punished, and then sent to his room to ask forgivness of God. His offence was, that he had got into a passion. Anxious to hear what his prayer would be, his mother followed him to the door of his room, where she heard him in lisping accents asking the Lord to make him a better boy, so that he would never be angry again; and then, with childlike simplicity, he added, "And, Lord, make Ma's temper better, too."—*Dr. D. Shearer.*

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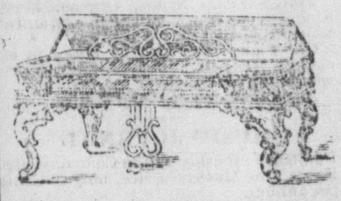

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