

FARM AND GARDEN.

KILL THE LATE WEEDS.—The fight with the weeds in the cornfield should not stop with the cultivator. We have frequently seen farmers strive manfully against the pests until midsummer, and then, through negligence, subject themselves to annoyance through the next season. Some weeds have a limited season of growth, and if kept rooted out until midsummer, will rarely come up again; others continue growing until severe frosts come. An old Illinois farmer said a cocklebur would come up in the morning, grow until four in the afternoon, and mature seeds before the frost could kill it that night. This is an exaggeration, yet the cocklebur must be fought until there are heavy frosts. The velvet-leaf, Jimson, and rag-weeds, will commence growth almost as late. Weeds are very prolific, and an occasional one gone to seed in the the cornfield will insure a good crop the next season. Corn should not be cultivated after it is tasseled, but the weeds can be cut out without disturbing the soil. For this purpose we have seen a short scythe used, but we much prefer a hoe with a sharp edge. —*American Agriculturist for August.*

AN INGENIOUS RAT TRAP.—A correspondent of the *Industrial World* describes a trap of his own contrivance as follows: This trap consists of a sheet iron pipe with a sort of rim on both ends and a strong two-bushel sack tied firmly around one end. Every hole is stopped in the corn crib but one, which opens into a feed box on the other side of the partition. Then the pipe is placed in the feed box and fitted, the open end firmly over the hole, allowing the sack to hang over the edge of the box into the manger. The trap is prepared, the door of the crib is left open, and the rats permitted to have their own way for an hour or so. Then the door is shut and a noise made to frighten the rats. Having but one means of escape, they rush into the pipe and down into the sack. This correspondent caught twenty-seven rats the first time he tried his trap.

ABOUT TREES.—What is a tree? Custom assumes that such woody plants as have an erect habit and attain a usual height of 16 or 20 feet or more may be considered trees.

The largest family of trees is the oak, containing 37 species, of tree size, besides several shrubby species.

The hickories in the United States number eight species, all of which grow on the Atlantic side of the continent.

Fields exhausted by improvident tillage in many parts of the country might be occupied by woodlands and restored to fertility through the annual mulchings of leaves.

It is good practice to thin out dense undergrowth in second growth forests, suppressing poor and worthless kinds, and even replanting the vacant spots with varieties that will make good timber in the future.

Dr. George Vasey states that while the forest flora of Europe furnishes little over 100 species of trees, in the United States there are 400 species.

There are thirty-four species of pines in the United States, though if all the conifers were taken into consideration 80 species might be named.

One match concern in Connecticut consumes over four million feet of pine lumber in a year.

To furnish ties for the United States railroads the timber product of 560,000 acres of land is required to replenish the average annual consumption.

HINTS TO LOVERS OF FLOWERS.—A most beautiful and easily attained show of evergreens may be had by a very simple plan, which has been found to answer remarkably well on a small scale. If geranium branches, taken from luxuriant and healthy trees, be cut as for slips and immersed in soap-water, they will after drooping for a few days, shed their leaves, put forth fresh ones, and continue in the finest vigor all winter. By placing a number of bottles thus filled in a flower

basket, with moss to conceal the bottles, a show of evergreen is easily insured for the whole winter. All the different varieties of the plants being used, the various shapes and colors of the leaves blend into a beautiful effect. They require no fresh water.

SCIENCE.

Electricity has been put to many strange uses in our time, but perhaps the most singular of all is its adaptation to the interests of lion-tamers. The invention consists of an apparatus of great power, shaped like a stick, about three feet and a half in length. M. Rauspach, the inventor, is a lion-tamer himself, who has been "a good deal worried" during a long and successful professional career. He has already experimented with it upon the denizens of the cages in his menagerie, and relates the different effects upon the brutes. Three of his lions receiving the shock immediately showed signs of the greatest terror. They were seized with trembling and growled fitfully. The tiger was more quickly subdued, became stupefied, and crouched in a corner of the cage. Bruin was more refractory to electricity, which seemed scarcely to affect him. He would growl and show his teeth, and was only subdued after repeated discharges. The most astonishing effects, however, were perceptible in the boa constrictor. On receiving the discharge, the specimen from Cayenne, nearly 20 ft. in length, became at once paralyzed, and remained motionless for six hours afterwards. When he recovered he showed signs of numbness for three whole days. Finally, the elephant on being electrified by a touch of the stick upon the tip of his trunk set up a series of wild cries and became so strange that the tamer feared the brute would break his heavy iron chain. M. Rauspach is said to intend addressing a paper upon the experiments to the Academy of Sciences. This is progress with a vengeance! Why, if we go on in this way, we shall bye-and-bye have an invention by which preachers unable to keep their hearers awake by their sermons will be able to rouse them by shocks far more noiselessly and affectively applied! Floreat science!

A WATER FILTER.—It has been found that sponge is the best material for filtering distilled water, the operation going on with great rapidity while the product is as clear as crystal. When filtered through paper distilled water soon exhibits a sediment, which is never found when it is filtered through a sponge. The improved apparatus consists of a bottle with an opening near the bottom, from which descends a bent glass tube, this being about six inches long and one and a half inches in diameter, with a perforated rubber stopper at each end bearing a narrower glass tube. The wide tube contains one or two long strips of fine sponge that have been cleaned with dilute hydrochloric acid and then dried. The bottle to which this filter is attached is not to exceed in size the one placed beneath to catch the filtrate, and the sponge is to be cleaned every few months.

HOUSEHOLD.

A high authority in cooking recommends that when baking a custard, you should set the basin or pudding-dish containing it into another dish filled with hot water. This keeps the temperature more even, and the danger of scorching is entirely done away with. A more delicate flavor is insured also.

The most fashionable suites of parlour furniture have no two chairs or pieces alike.

Every good housekeeper takes down all heavy hangings during the summer. They make a house stuffy and warm, and collect the dust.

Dr. Niemeyer gives this advice to ladies:—

"Thirty deep inspirations taken every morning in a pure atmosphere, and no lacing, will do more for the colour of your cheeks than a tumbler of chalybeate or a dose of iron pills."

In West Cornwall women are commonly employed as painters and paper-hangers, learning the trade from each other without serving a regular apprenticeship, and following it as constantly as dress-makers or milliners pursue their calling. A contributor to *Notes and Queries* thinks that this custom is not common elsewhere in England or Europe.

VARIETIES.

One of the comic papers represents an "austere pedagogue" as saying to a youthful pupil:—"Boy, you speak very indistinctly. Don't your friends ever tell you so?" To which the small boy innocently replies, "No, sir; they're not so rude."

THE HOT CAR STOVE.—"My! how hot it is!" exclaimed a fleshy lady, entering the car, her eyes fell upon the stove. "What an idea! A fire such a day as this! What in the world are they thinking of?" And she shoves up the window and fans herself like all possessed.

An elderly gentleman next enters. He sits down to read his newspaper, first glancing at the open window in an offended sort of way. As his eyes move around from the window to his paper, they fall upon the stove.

"Great Scott!" he mutters, "Do they want to roast a fellow alive?" And up goes his window.

Each new comer sits down quietly, looks at the stove and then cries: "How hot it is!" "What an awful fire they've got!" "Isn't it ridiculous!" or something of the kind; and each opens a window, one gentleman going so far as to open all the ventilators, while another opens both doors.

Conductor! cry a dozen voices, as that official makes his appearance, and a dozen forefingers point to the stove. The conductor looks at the cause of all the commotion, its mica window glowing like a furnace heated seven times hotter than is wont to be heated. He takes off his hat, and mops his brow. Then he takes a long poker, and standing as far away from the stove as possible, throws open the door. He falls back to avoid the heat, then steps forward, looks into the empty cylinder, and remarks with a laugh: "Sold! That boy's gone and painted them windows red!"

Instantly the doors are closed, every window goes down with a bang, and a little man in the end seat asks the conductor if he won't please shut the ventilators.—*Boston Transcript.*

The following is told of John R. Randall, the editor of the *Augusta Chronicle*. He attended one day a colored church in the country, and had in his pocket a silver half-dollar, just the fare back to Augusta. At the conclusion of his sermon, the minister ordered a collection for his own benefit. "Of course," said he, "I expect every parson to give something; but I've told Mr. Thomas, up de land yonder, fad some turkeys stole Friday night. I don't want any man who had a han' in stealing dem turkeys to put any money in de plate." When the plate reached Mr. Randall not a man had refused to contribute, and the preacher's eyes were on him. His half-dollar accordingly went into the plate.

Mr. Edison the inventor, is slightly deaf, and is glad of it, and does not wish to be cured. There are many things which now he cannot hear, and does not want to hear. Among them he enumerates cars, cars, and licensed vendors, bores, persons at the telephone, lawyers speaking to juries, political speeches, cats at night, and men who want to borrow money. He proposes to invent a machine that will make people just as deaf as they want to be.

A young lady of Albany sent up a toy balloon, to which she attached a card bearing her name and the further inscription, "If any good-looking young bachelor or widower finds this, will he please return it?" After a week's absence the balloon was found by a young farmer, who returned it with his compliments and photograph.

A NEW AUTHOR.—"I would like to take one of Bart's," I remarked to a lady to the custodian of a circulating library.

"Bart? I am not familiar with the author. I do not think that we have any of his works in our library."

"O! yes, indeed you have. I have seen the name in the catalogue."

"Do you remember the titles of any of his works?"

"Yes, I remember one."

"And that was?"

"That was 'The Last Days of Pompeii,' by E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart.—*Boston Globe.*

Sheridan had a very convenient formula for acknowledging all the new publications that were sent to him:—

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GEO. A. McDONALD,
Sept. 17. Secretary.

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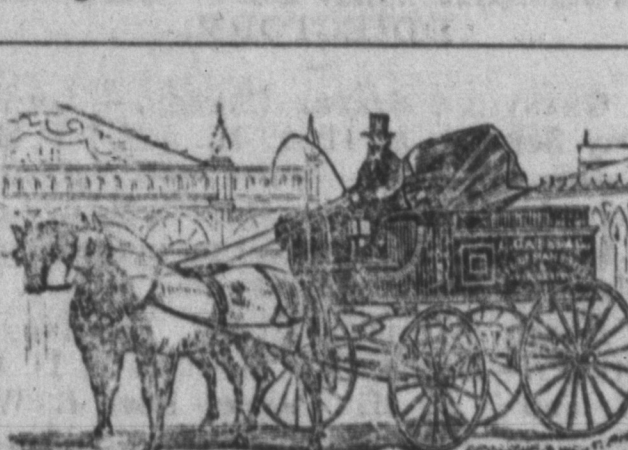
Buds and Blossoms.—The following is from *The Christian at Work*, a first-class religious weekly, published in New York:
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REV. J. F. AVERY, Editor,
Mizpah Cottage, Kempt Road,
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