torments of the fire and the knife, they recited their new creed instead of chanting their last war-song. The Jesuit historian of this dreadful scene calls on his readers to rejoice in the providental mercy that brought the captured Iroquois within the blessed fold of the church. In the triumph of Christianizing the heathen, he despised the task of humanizing the Christian.—*Conquest of Canada.*

Scientific.

SUICIDAL IMPULSES.

It is the prevalent opinion among persons ignorant of the science of psychology and pathology, (says Dr. Winslow,) that the desire for self-destruction is, in the majority of cases, a *mental* act, unconnected with a disturbed condition of the *bodily* functions, and incurable by any process of medical treatment; that the depression of mind which is so generally associated with the suicidal tendency, is an affection of the mind *per se*, the physical organization having no direct connection with what is termed the *spiritual* impulse. The tendency of this spiritual or metat physical view of the question, is to create a distrust in remedial measures; and the poor man who is struggling against an almost overpowering desire to destroy himself, is either induced to run to the clergyman or to his prayer-book for assistance, or to neglect entirely his lamentable condition, under the belief that he is literally placed beyond the reach of curative agents and that the only remedy for his mental suffering is death. If a person in this unhappy state of mind is induced to believe that his mental despondency is but a *consequence* or *effect* of a disturbed condition of certain organic functions, influencing, either directly or indirectly, the natural and healthy operation of the brain and nervous system, and giving riso to perverted ideas—that his malady is curable—he may be induced to avail himself of the means which science has placed at the disposal of the physician, and thus be protected against his own insane impulses. * * * It ought never to be forgotten, that the disposition to suicide may be the only sign present that indicates the existence of disturbed mind; that the commission of suicide is often the *overt* act of insanity; and that when the feeling is present, the individual himself may feel assured that his health is out of order, and that he requires the aid of the physician, as well as of the metaphysician and clergyman. How indisposed are relatives and friends to believe the fact that the mind is in an unsound state, even in cases where the disorder is most obvious and apparent? A gentleman holding a high public station manifested for some weeks great depression of spirits, but he was not considered sufficiently ill to justify the family in summoning to his aid their ordinary medical adviser. One day he was found suspended by the neck, was fortunately cut down before vitality was extinguished, was placed in his carriage, and taken to the house of a physician. It was soon ascertained that the poor man's bodily health was in a sad condition. By his own confession, he had not closed his eyes for *six* days or nights! He recovered, and is at this moment exercising his official duties in the full enjoyment of *mens sana in corpore sano*. It is an occasional occurrence for persons laboring under great disturbance of the general health, accompanied with a morbid desire to destroy life, to seek advice from experienced medical men. These cases, if subjected to treatment at the early period of the malady, are generally curable. I say this to comfort those (and they constitute, I fear, a large class) who, from erroneous views, are led to consider that the door of hope is for ever closed against them. It cannot be too generally known that disturbed *thought* (quite irrespectively of suicidal feeling) is as much a sympton of mischief (I do not say *organic*) of some kind going on in the *brain*, as severe pain of one of the joints of the foot, accompanied with a swollen condition of the part, are evidences of an attack of the gout. All sudden and prolonged deviations from the natural disposition, thought, character, temper, feelings, affections, and habits, should awaken grave suspicion in the person's own mind, and lead him to ask himself the question, "Is there not something wrong with my bodily health, interfering with the smooth and normal current of my thoughts and feelings?" It is better to be too much upon our guard against the *first inroads* of deranged mind than to wilfully overlook and neglect, as is, alas! often the case, the glaring evidences of disordered intellect.

Transfer of Vital Power.

Transference of vitality, which appears to take place when young persons are habitually placed in contact with the aged, is not a nursery fiction. It is well attested by competent authorities. "A not uncommon case," observes Dr. Copland, "of depressed vital power, is the young sleeping with the aged. This fact, however explained, has been long remarked, and it is well known to every unprejudiced observer. I have, on several occasions, met with the counterpart of the following case: I was a few years ago consulted about a pale, sickly, and thin boy, of about four or five years of age. He appeared to have no specific ailment, but there was a slow and remarkable decline of flesh and strength, and of the energy of the functions—what his mother very aptly termed a gradual blight. After inquiry into the history of the case, it came out that he had been a very robust and phlethoric child up to his third year, when his grandmother, a very aged person, took him to sleep with her; that he soon afterwards lost his good looks, and that he had continued to decline progressively ever since, notwithstanding medical treatment. I directed him to sleep apart from the aged parent, and prescribed gentle tonics, change of air, &c.; the recovery was rapid. But it is not in children only that debility is induced by this mode of abstracting vital power. Young females married to old men suffer in a similar manner, although seldom to so great an extent; and instances have come to our knowledge, where they have suspected the cause of their debilitated state. These facts are often well known to the aged themselves, who consider the indulgence favorable to longevity, and thereby illustrate the selfishness which, in some persons, increases with their years."

Every medical practitioner is well aware of the fact, that parents generally are advised not to allow their infants to sleep with aged persons.

How to get to Sleep, is to many persons a matter of high importance. Nervous persons, who are troubled with wakefulness and excitability, usually have a strong tendency of blood to the brain, with cold extremities.—The pressure of blood on the brain keep it in a stimulated or wakeful state, and the pulsation in the head on lying down are painful. Let such rise, chafe the body and extremities with a crash towel, or rub smartly with the hands, to promote uniform circulation, and withdraw the excessive amount from the brain, and they will fall asleep in a few moments. A cold bath or sponge bath, and rubbing, or a good run, or rapid walk in the open air, or going up or down stairs a few times, just before retiring, will aid in equalizing circulation and promoting sleep. These rules are simple. and easy of application in castle or cabin, and may minister to the comfort of thousands who would freely expend money for an anodyne to promote 'nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep.'

Groaning and Crying.

A French surgeon lately published a long dissertation on the beneficial influence of groaning and crying, on the nervous system. He contends that groaning and crying are the two grand operations by which nature allays anguish; and that he has uniformly observed that those patients who give way to their natural feelings, more speedily recover from accidents and operations, than those who suppose it is unworthy a man to betray such symptoms of cowardice as either to groan or to cry. He is always pleased by the crying and violent roaring of a patient, during the time he is undergoing a severe surgical operation, because he is satisfied that he will thereby so soothe his nervous system as to prevent fever, and insure a favorable termination. He relates a case of a man who by crying and bawling, reduced his pulse from one hundred and twenty to sixty, in the course of two hours.—That some patients often have a great satisfaction in groaning, and that hysterical patients often experience great relief from crying, are facts which no person will deny. As to restless, hypchondriacal subjects, or those who are never happy but when they are under some course of medical or dietetic treatment, the French surgeon assures them that they cannot do better than groan all night, and cry all day.

How to Examine Wells.

The following simple mode of examining a well, to ascertain whether it contains any offensive substances, has been recommended as efficient: Place a common mirror over the well in such a position as to catch and throw the rays of the sun directly to the bottom of the well, which will instantly be illuminated in such a manner that the smallest pebbles, &c., at the bottom, can be as distinctly discerned as if they were held in the hand. The sun is in the best situation to be reflected in the morning or afternoon.

Worth Trying.

A Pennsylvania farmer states, in a late American journal, that the water in which potatoes have been boiled, sprinkled over grain or garden plants, completely destroys all insects in every stage of existence, from the egg to the full grown fly.

To Clean Steel and Iron.

One ounce of soft soap, two ounces of emery, made into a paste; then rub the article to be cleaned with white wash-leather, and it will give a brilliant polish.

Lightning Rods.

A correspondent of the Rochester Daily American furnishes the following paragraph: Lardner states in his lectures, that the temple at Jerusalem stood one thousand years, and was not struck by lightning, though it was greatly exposed from its elevation and position. He adds, that its roof was covered with metal, and that numerous bars of steel and iron with guilt points were raised on its roof, and that the whole was connected by metallic water pipes with large cisterns below. Thus it appears that the temple was protected on the very same principle the discovery of which distinguished the last year.

The Farm.

STARCH FROM INDIAN CORN.

Many of our readers are not aware of the extent of this new branch of manufacture, which we hope soon to see take the place of whisky distilleries in the consumption of our great American staple, Indian corn. There is now in operation at Oswego, New York, a manufactory that consumes 2,000 bushels of corn a week, which makes 40,000 pounds of the whitest and most beautiful starch for all domestic purposes, whether for the laundry or pantry. The building is 140 by 190 feet, five stories high, (to which an addition is about being erected,) and contains two hundred cisterns for precipitating the starch, eleven furnaces with drying-rooms, and employs about seventy men, and manufactures upwards of $120,000 worth of starch annually. There are two other similar establishments in the United States, and yet the demand is constantly increasing.

It is found that this kind of starch is superior to any other for culinary purposes, because it is always made of clean, sweet corn, the gluten of which is separated by a peculiar process of grinding and washing, the corn being steeped in a chemical liquor, then reduced to pulp, sifted and filtrated, and passed into huge cisterns, whence it flows through long narrow troughs, draining off the water through course cotton cloths. In twelve hours the starch becomes like wet clay, capable of being handled and dried, a process that requires much care and a powerful heat. The residue of the corn is used for feeding hogs and other domestic animals.

This is a new use for Indian corn, but one, we hope, that will prove profitable to the manufacturer, and induce a very large consumption of this grain, and thereby increase the price to the grower. We should like to have some statistics of the other corn starch manufactories in the country, for the purpose of noticing them as being intimately connected with the interests of the agricultural community and the object of our journal.—*Am. Agriculturist.*

Selling Corn.

Sell no corn in the ear; have all that you sell *shelled*. A hand-shelling machine will answer if your crop is a small one—if large, get one to be worked by horse-power—neither will cost a great deal—and we are very certain that *cobs*, if crushed, steamed, and fed to your cattle, will be worth more to you in a single winter than the price of a corn-sheller, whether you can get a small or a large one.—We believe there is one third as much nutriment in a bushel of cobs as there is in a bushel of grain, and we do know that cows or oxen fed upon three pecks of the crushed or steamed cobs, in addition to their usual quantity of hay, tops, or fodder, WILL KEEP FAT. *Then why haul your cobs to market to be given away?* It costs you as much to carry a bushel of cobs to market as it does a bushel of corn. *Shell* your corn, leave your *cobs* at home, to nourish your cattle, and through them your land, and where you now send *one* bushel of *corn*, you will be able to transport *two* for the same money. Look this subject fairly in the face—consult economy—consult the comfort of your cattle—consult the wants of your soil, and you cannot fail to take our advice.—*American Farmer.*

We should be glad to hear of practical experiments in feeding of ground cobs—the chemical constituents of the cob will not warrant the above estimate of their value, but like the carrot, they may contain slight quantities of materials not yet noted by chemists, which may render them valuable.—*Ed. Working Farmer.*

Harvesting Buckwheat.

Buckwheat appears to be gaining favor among the farmers in this vicinity, and as far as our observations extend, more of it is being rased every year. That it is worthy of cultivation, and that it will answer a valuable purpose among the other crops of the farm, we do not doubt.

Buckwheat requires more care in harvesting, in order to prevent loss from the shaking off of the seeds, than any other crop. Some writers recommend cutting it as soon as one third of the seeds are turned brown; others say two thirds. If we wait for all to ripen, the earliest and best portion of the grain will be lost. When perhaps one half of the seeds are turned brown, the grain should be cut; and as the straw is very succulent and juicy, the unripened grain will draw nourishment from the stalk, will fill out and ripen very well after it is cut. Some prefer to cut this grain when it is wet with dew. The most approved method of harvesting is to cradle the buckwheat, and then with a rake put it into bunches about the size of ordinary wheat sheaves, and set them up without binding. By raking or rolling it together with a rake, it is interwoven in such a manner that it will stand any desirable length of time, and when sufficiently dry it may be taken up with a fork and placed on a cart without the loss of a grain. It should be threshed out immediately. It is very easily threshed, when it is in good condition. It will often be necessary to let it remain in the bunches ten or twelve days before it becomes sufficiently dried and cured. It rarely suffers any injury from exposure to rains.—*Maine Farmer.*

The Tomato.

This plant or vegetable, sometimes called Love Apple, or Jerusalem Apple, which belongs to the same genus with the potato, was first found in South America. The use of this fruit as food is said to have been derived from the Spaniards. It has been long used also by the French and Italians. The date of its introduction to this country is unknown. It is said that the tomato has been used in some parts of Illinois for more than fifty years. Its introduction on our tables, as a culinary vegetable, is of recent date. Thirty years ago it was hardly known, but as an ornament to the flower garden, and for pickling. It is now cultivated in all parts of the country, and found either in a cooked or raw state on most tables. In warm climates it is said that they are more used than in northern, and have a more agreeable taste. It is now used, in various parts of the country, in soups and sauces, to which it imparts an agreeable acid flavor; and is also stewed and dressed in various ways, very much admired, and many people consider it a great luxury. We often hear it said that a relish for this vegetable is an acquired one; scarcely any person at first liking it. It has, indeed, within a few years, come into very general use, and is considered a particularly healthy article. A learned medical professor in the West pronounces the tomato a very wholesome food in various ways, and advises the daily use of it. He says that it is very salutary in dyspepsia and indigestion, and is a good antidote to bilious disorders, to which persons are liable in going from a northern to a warmer climate. He recommends the use of it also in diarrhœa, and thinks it preferable to calomel. The tomato is a tender herbaceous plant, of rank growth, but weak, fetid and glutinous. The leaves resemble those of the potato, but the flowers are yellow, and arranged in large divided branches. The fruit is of a light yellow, and a bright red color, pendulous, and formed like the large, squash-shaped pepper. There are smaller varieties, one pear shaped variety and also red and yellow. These are eaten and relished by many from the hand.