FOR THE FARM AND HOME.

Root Pruning.

The experiments were made on the apple and pear. A vigorous apple tree, eight or ten years old, which had scarcely made any fruit buds, has done best when about half the roots were cut in one season and half three years later, by going half way round on opposite sides in one year and finishing at the next pruning, working two feet underneath to sever downward roots. It has always answered well also to cut from such trees all the larger and longer roots about two and a half feet from the stem, leaving the small and weaker ones longer, and going half way round as already stated. The operation was repeated three or four years later by extending the cut circle a foot or two away from the tree. By this operation unproductive fruit trees become thickly studded with fruit spurs, and afterward bear fruit profusely. This shortening of the roots has been continued in these experiments for 20 years with much success, the circle of roots remaining greatly circumscribed. The best time for the work has been found to be in the latter part of August and the beginning of September, when growth has nearly ceased, and while the leaves are yet on the tree, causing greater increase of flower buds the following year than when performed after the leaves had fallen.—*London Gardener.*

Waste In Threshing.

A careful German farmer, writes F. D. Curtis, of Kirby Homestead, N. Y., in the New York *Tribune*, has tested the waste rubber, as it is called, which takes in the handle sideways, so as to admit of its being reloaded. He ran the chaff, which was supposed to be free from grain, through a fanning-mill, and obtained twenty-five bushels of rye. This was twenty-five per cent. of his crop. It proves what I have urged before—that in the hurry and bother, and "hurrah boys" connected with threshing-machines, especially the ill-managed ones, there is always a considerable waste. When I spread buckwheat straw to mulch the strawberry beds the buckwheat came up last spring thick enough to seed the ground. An ex-manager of a pauper mill once told me that they obtained fifteen per cent. of the cost of the rye-straw in the rye that was in it. They always threshed the straw over before using it in the mill, and in this way reduced its cost. The lesson to be learned from these facts is obvious. There should be less hurry about the threshing, and the feeding of the machinery should be slower, in order to insure a more perfect shelling of the grain. The owner should see that the cleaning mill is in good order, and that the sieves are kept clean, otherwise the grain will run over and go out with the chaff. If there were any of the old-time threshers with flails one of them would be sure to get a steady job at Kirby Homestead. It did not cost as much to thrash grain in this way in old times as it does now with the fast-working machines.

Bone Manure for Manures.

An English paper in commenting upon the subject, remarks that the Cheshire farmer, by the free use of bone manure laid on the grass lands, makes his farm, which at one time, before the application of bone manure, fed only twenty head of cows, now feed forty. In Cheshire two-thirds, or more generally three-fourths, of a dairy farm are kept in perfect pasture, the remainder in tillage. Its dairy farmers are commonly found to lay the whole of their manure not on the arable, but on the grass land, purchasing what may be necessary for the arable. The chief improvement besides drainage consists in the application of bone manure. In the milk of each cow, in its urine, in its manure, in the bones of each calf reared and sold off, a farm parts with as much earthy phosphates of lime as is contained in half a hundred-weight of bone dust. Hence the advantage of returning this mineral manure by boning grass lands. The quantity of bones now commonly given in Cheshire to an imperial acre of grass land is 1,200 to 1,500 weight. This dressing on pasture land will last seven or eight years, and on mowed land about half that period.

Household Hints.

It is hard on a carving-knife to sharpen it on the window-sill.

Never remove a cork from a bottle with the prong of a carving fork.

To remove varnish from the piano legs let the children play in the parlor.

A small spoonful of molasses added to the buckwheat batter each morning, will make the cakes temptingly brown.

An excellent garnish for corned beef or boiled ham is made by boiling some fresh eggs ten minutes, then cut them in thick slices, dip each in beaten egg and fine cracker or bread crumbs, and fry brown in hot lard. A little parsley chopped and mixed with raw egg is a decided gain.

In a fight between four robins and a chicken in Ebensburgh, Penn., recently, the chicken was so badly whipped that it lived only an hour after being rescued by a boy.

The total value of the Southern crop, thirty years ago was $138,605,738 while now it exceeds $700,000,000.

The Police of Mexico.

The Mexican police, says a correspondent, are striking figures, clad in scanty linen and much "brief authority," with rusty, old-fashioned cavalry sabres dangling at their heels, and equally antique looking pistols pendant from their belts. Of course they are ubiquitous, mostly too much so, and after the manner of the species elsewhere, are generally on the spot when not wanted, but seldom when their presence is actually needed. For example, the other evening about 9 o'clock, while many people were in the street, a young man stood on the pavement talking to a lady of undoubted respectability, who sat inside her window. During that perfectly decorous conversation of perhaps ten minutes no less than three policemen tapped the gentleman upon the shoulder and warned him, like little Jo, to "move on." It being against the law to talk on the street to persons inside! The same evening at nearly the same hour the house of the American consul, who chanced to be out of town, on the populous Calle de Cinega, was entered by thieves. A young man who sleeps in the house came home while they were in the midst of their work, and, notwithstanding his loud cries, "Police, police!" was beaten insensible. The enterprising burglars "quietly finished their plunder" and departed in peace with their booty. However, to the credit of the government be it said that Monterey is a model city in many respects. There are never any riots upon the streets, and fewer murders and robberies are committed within the corporate limits than in most northern cities of equal population. During my five months' residence here I have never seen but one drunken man, and he was being conducted between two policemen, uproariously happy, to prison. On the principle that it takes a rogue to catch rogues" this Mexican force ought to be the best in the world, for its ranks are recruited from the dangerous, wholly criminals.

Pressed to Death.

In early times it was occasionally that criminals accused of felony could not be properly tried and sentenced, subjected to the trial by pressing and putting them down on the country. After reading the indictment to him the question was put, "How say you—are you guilty or not guilty?" If he said "not guilty," the next question was "How will you be tried?" "By God and my country." If he boldly confirmed the plea of not guilty, and answer he was said to stand mute, and a jury was sworn to try whether he stood mute of malice or not. In the statute of Westminster, it was enacted that if any person indicted of felony, standing mute, refused to plead, he should be put into a place where he should lie without food or drink, and be pressed with as much iron as he could bear, and as much more, and so continued from day to day, till he should either plead or die. This statute was not abolished till the year 1772, when standing mute in cases of felony was made equal to a conviction. A case actually occurred as late as 1770, when one Barnaby, accused at Kingston-on-Thames, of robbery, refused to plead, and was pressed for an hour and three-quarters with nearly four hundred weight of iron, which he piteously cried out, "Take more, for God's sake!" and, being convicted and hanged. In like manner, the strange way was proposed to deal with the object of refusing to plead was that, as in that case there was no conviction, no forfeiture took place, and the property of the accused person was thus preserved for his heir.

Natural Appetites.

Dr. Felix L. Oswald says in *Popular Science Monthly*, that in order to distinguish a poison-stimulant from a harmless and nutritive substance, nature has thus furnished us three infallible tests:

1. The first taste of every poison is either insipid or repulsive.

2. The persistent obtrusion of the noxious substance changes that aversion into a specific craving.

3. The more or less pleasurable excitement produced by a gratification of that craving is always followed by a depressing reaction.

The first drop of a wholesome beverage (milk, cold water, cider fresh from the press, etc.) is quite as pleasant as the last; the indulgence in such pleasures is not followed by repentance and never begets a specific craving. Pancakes and honey we may eat with great relish whenever we can get them but, if we can't, we won't miss them as long as we can satisfy our hunger with bread and butter. In mid-winter when apples advance to six dollars a barrel, it needs no lectures and midnight prayers to substitute tree-pudding for apple-pie. A Turk may breakfast for thirty years on figs and roasted chestnuts, and yet be quite as comfortable in Switzerland, where they treat him to milk and bread. Not so the dram-drinker: his "thirst" can not be assuaged with water or milk, his enslaved appetite craves the wonted tipple—or else a stronger stimulant. Natural food has no effect on the poison-hunger; nature has nothing to do with such appetites.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Americans are the greatest butter-eating people in the world. This is one reason why the export of butter does not increase so rapidly as its manufacture, and why the price is maintained so high as it is.

London speculators are buying up our trade dollars. It is said that these purchases are made in the expectation that Congress will some time make trade dollars a legal tender or direct their redemption at face value.

It appears that over 40,000 miles of railroad have been built in the United States since and including 1879. This is about one-third of the entire mileage of the country. Last year the amount raised to build these roads was over $70,000,000.

Germany has a temperance revival such as was never known in that country before. It is led by Count Moltke, and many eminent men are among its foremost workers. The German reformers have not yet attained the standard of total abstinence, but are preaching moderation.

Dynamite must go the rear as the great explosive and make way for "panclastite," a free translation of which term is "smash up." It is a liquid and is said to be composed of bisulphide of carbon and hyponitric acid. It requires a greater shock than dynamite to explode it, and each of its components is non-explosive by itself. When combined the result is terrible.

The peach-growing center is gradually moving south. A few years ago there were great orchards in New Jersey. Then Delaware was the chief producer. Now Maryland and Virginia are coming to the front. The largest peach farms are in Maryland. The Round Top farm has 125,000 trees. On the estate of Colonel Watkins there are 120,000 trees. A peach tree bears abundantly for ten or twelve years of life, and the soil in which it grows is built for peach culture.

Some of the Western judges draw the line close. An Arkansas court lets a prisoner go home to see his own house, while by an Indiana tribunal it is held that murder is the crime of a man who looks death, and not locality, its consequences, must be considered. But a late California decision is perhaps more unique than either. The Supreme Court reversed a conviction for perjury on the ground that the false testimony given in the murder case was material to the issue, and therefore could not be perjury.

Chicago claims to be cosmopolitan. Little more than nine per cent of its population was born in the United States, according to the statistics for 1882, given as based upon the Federal census of 1880, no less than ninety-one per cent of the present inhabitants of that city have poured from the various states of the German empire. The Germans number 12,000; Canadians (French), 3,000; French, nearly 2,000; Irish, nearly 50,000; Hollanders, 2,000; Belgians, 1,000; Norwegians, 6,000; Swedes, 10,000; Poles, 5,000, and Swiss, 2,000, with a sprinkling of Russians, Hungarians, Spaniards, Portuguese, and men of almost every other race and nationality under the sun.

The suit of John Davenport, of Portland, Oregon, was compelled to take a long journey. Mr. Davenport died in England, and his will was probated in London. As he left $40,000 worth of property in Oregon, it was necessary that it should also be probated there. It was also requisite that the original document should be produced, and as when a will is probated in England the Probate Court keeps it in charge, an officer of the London court had to make the journey to Oregon with Mr. Davenport's will, in order that it might be probated there. This has been done, and it is said to have been the first instance of the kind that ever occurred.

Fiery Stuff's Drank by Alaskans.

The hoochinoo, so called from its first being made by the Indians of that tribe, is the great enemy of peace and order among these people. Government orders prevent the importation of whisky, rum, and the like, but the ever vigilant officers cannot keep watch of all the illicit stills that the Indians set up in their houses or in lonely spots in the woods. A deserter from a whaling ship once taught the Indians how to distill hoochinoo, and the secret of manufacture has never been allowed to die out. An empty oil-can, some sections of rubber pipe, or the hollow stems of the long sea onions furnish a sufficient apparatus and molasses, sugar, and most any thing else supply ingredients for the fiery stuff that can be distilled in a short time. The mariners from the man-of-war are always on the look-out for hoochinoo, and with the first signs of it a raid is made on Siwash town and the supply destroyed if possible. With the cunning of a savage race the Indians have most wonderful ways and places for concealing the hoochinoo, and it takes the keen scent of a detective to find the underground and inaccessible places they can devise.

Choosing a Husband.

Mixed with the humor and nonsense of the following selections are many shrewd and valuable hints to those young ladies whose minds are prone to thoughts of love.

First, catch your lover.

Hold him when you have him.

Don't let go of him to catch every new one that comes along.

Try to get pretty well acquainted with him before you take him for life.

Unless you intend to support him, find out whether he earns enough to support you.

Don't make up your mind that he is an angel.

Don't palm yourself off on him as one, either.

Don't let him spend his salary on you; that right should be reserved till after marriage.

If you have conscientious scruples against marrying a man with a mother, say so in time, that he may get rid of her to oblige you, or rid of you to oblige her, as he thinks best.

If you object to secret societies and tobacco, it is better to come out with your objections now than to reserve them for certain lectures hereafter.

If your adorer happens to fancy a certain shade of hair, don't color or bleach to oblige him. Remember your hair belongs to you and he doesn't.

Be very sure it is the man you are in love with, and not the clothes he wears. Fortune and fashion are both fickle, it is foolish to take a stylish suit of clothes for better or worse.

If you intend to keep three servants after marriage, settle the matter beforehand. The man who is making love to you may expect you to do your own washing.

Don't try to hurry a proposal by carrying on a flirtation with some other fellow. Different men are made of different material, and the one you want may go off in a fit of jealousy and forget to come back.

If you have a love letter to write, don't copy it out of a "letter-writer." If your young man ever happened to consult the same book he would know your sentiments were borrowed.

Don't marry a man to oblige any third person in existence. It is your right to suit yourself in the matter. But remember at the same time that love is blind, and a little friendly advice from one who so advice is worth having may insure you a lifetime of happiness or prevent one of misery.

In love affairs always keep your eyes wide open, so that when the right man comes along you may see him.

When you do see him you will recognize him and the recognition will be mutual.

If you have no fault to find with him personally, morally, religiously, or any other way, he is probably perfect enough to suit you, and you can afford to believe him, hope in him, love him, marry him.

Happy Once More.

ST. LOUIS, MO.—A *Chronicle* reporter was told by Mr. Alfred J. Papin, of this city, that his nephew had the most obstinate case of inflammatory rheumatism which baffled all kinds of treatment until St. Jacobs Oil, the great pain-conqueror was used. It cured the young man, and he recommends it as the greatest cure for pains in the world.

Praying for Papa.

A few nights ago a well known citizen of Detroit, Mich., who has been walking for some time in the downward path, came out of his home and started down town for a night of carousal with some old companions he had promised to meet. His young wife had besought him with imploring eyes to spend the evening with her, and had reminded him of the time when evenings passed in her company were all too short. His little daughter had clung about his knees and coaxed in her pretty, wilful way for "papa" to tell her some bedtime stories, but habit was stronger than love for wife and child, and he eluded their tender questioning by the special sophistries the father of evil advances at such times from his credit fund, and went his way. But when he was a block from his home he found that in changing his coat he had forgotten to remove his wallet, and he could not go out on a drinking bout without money, even though he knew that his family needed it, that his wife was economizing each day more and more in order to make up his deficits, and he hurried back and crept softly past the windows of the little home, in order that he might steal in and obtain it, without running the gauntlet of either questions or caresses. But something stayed his feet; there was a fire in the grate within—for the night was chill—and it lit up the little parlor and brought out in startling effects the pictures on the wall. But these were as nothing to the picture on the hearth. There, in the soft glow of the firelight, knelt his little child at her mother's feet, its small hands clasped in prayer, its fair head bowed; and as its rosy lips uttered each word with childish distinctness, the father listened, spellbound to the end.

"Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep;
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take."

Sweet petition! The man himself, who stood there with bearded lips shut tightly together, had said that prayer once at *his* mother's knee. Where was that mother now? The sunset gates had long ago unbarred to let her pass through. But the child had not finished; he heard her "God bless mamma, papa and my ownself"—then there was a pause, and she lifted troubled blue eyes to her mother's face.

"God bless papa," prompted the mother, softly.

"God bless papa," lisped the little one.

"And—please send him home sober." He could not hear the mother as she said this, but the child followed it in a clear, inspired tone:

"God—bless papa—and please—send him—home—sober. Amen." Mother and child sprang to their feet in alarm when the door opened so suddenly, but they were not afraid when they saw who it was—returned so soon; but that night, when Mamie was being tucked up in bed after such a romp with papa she said in the sleepiest and most contented of voices:

"Mamma, God answers most as quick as the telephone, doesn't he?"

THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY.

Upon a Subject of Vital Interest, Effecting the Welfare of All.

The following remarkable letter from one of the leading and best known scientific writers of the present day is specially significant, and should be of unusual value to all readers who desire to keep pace with the march of modern discoveries and events:

"A general demand for reformation is one of the most distinctive characteristics of the nineteenth century. The common people, as well as the more enlightened and freethinkers, cry out with no uncertain voice to be emancipated from the slavery of conservatism and superstition which has held the masses in gross ignorance during a large portion of the world's history, and in the time of the 'Dark Ages' came near obliterating the last glimmer of truth. Dogmatic assertions and blind conservatism are losing caste among all classes of all countries. People are beginning to think for themselves, and to regard authority much less than argument. Men and women are no longer willing that a few individuals should dictate to them what must be their sentiments and opinions. They claim the right to solve for themselves the great problems of the day, and demand that the general good of humanity shall be considered. As the result of this general awakening, we see on every hand, a mind-subduer dispensing other and easy action. People who a few years ago endured suffering the most intense in the name of duty, now reject the idea that a physique of such a nature. Men who were made the subjects of Bright's disease, considered it a death sentence. Physicians, too, considered it incurable, and their hopes of recovery were scarcely entertained by the victims of the disease. There are thousands of people today who are enjoying the first symptoms of some serious malady and without the slightest conception of the danger that is before them. They have occasional headaches, a lack of appetite one day and a raven as keen the next, or an unaccountable feeling of weariness, sometimes accompanied by nausea, and attributing all these troubles to the old foes of a sluggish liver and malaria. It is high time that people should realize that the sickness of these months and years proceeds from the poisonous fluids which control them. When the blood is so vitiated as to cause disease in any part, it is their duty to use a medicine as quickly, and as safely as possible, to neutralize the poisonous fluids that cause the disease. Nothing has been found to do this so effectually as Warner's Safe Cure, which is a blood purifier and a specific for all diseases of the kidneys, liver and urinary organs, and for the prevention of Bright's disease, diabetes, and other fatal diseases. Nothing else