QUEER MUSHROOM PLANTATION.

Abandoned Portions of a Michigan Quarry Bear Fruit.

A. H. Apted has a mushroom "plantation," the only one in Grand Rapids, and so far as heard from the only one in Michigan. Florists and market gardeners raise mushrooms in the dark corners of their hothouses, but with them it is merely a side issue, while Apted makes a business of it. The plantation is not remarkable for the number of its spreading acres, but it could easily be developed into a farm of good size. It is located in an old plaster quarry, and while some "farms" are available for crops only at certain seasons, Apted can pluck his mushrooms all the year around and can regulate the quantity produced by figuring three or four months ahead; and this, too, without the slightest difference in the expense.

The plaster quarry is just outside of the southwest corner of the city limits, on the west side. It was the first quarry opened there and run into a side hill, cropping out at the highway. It has been worked for forty years and the excavations spread under twenty acres. The quarry is being worked as steadily now as at any time in its history, with crews of miners pounding away and blasting out the gypsum to be manufactured into stucco or wallfinish. Apted's father is superintendent of the works and his plantation is located in some of the deserted galleries.

One must be familiar with the route to find the beds, and the intricacy of the way is a safeguard against marauders. The mine is always open day and night, but there has never been any trouble from trespassers. The temperature does not vary 5 degrees from one year's end to the other, ranging from 60 to 65 degrees and not go far below this even in the coldest weather. Mushrooms would stand up advantageously a slightly higher temperature, but this does very well. The most serious objection to the mine lies in the fact that it drops up in winter and the grounds so large that it is impossible to increase the moisture by artificial methods, as could be done in a cellar or greenhouse. When too dry the mushrooms are likely to be attacked by a fungus which impairs their quality and even destroys them.

Mushroom farming is simple when the secrets of the business are learned, and as conducted by Mr. Apted it is highly profitable. Fresh horse manure and loam is carted into the cave and laid in beds fifteen inches deep and 10 by 20 feet in area. The mixture heats to 120 or 130 degrees at first and when this subsides the bed is sown with spawn.

The mushroom spawn is produced in England and France chiefly and is imported into this country in the form of bricks or as flakes and the fungus is propagated by growth and division. The mushrooms give off spores which not as good for the growth of the plant, but all efforts to gather the seed have failed. The spawn-grower prepares a bed of manure and loam and when its condition is just right it is cut into bricks and into each piece is placed small piece of spawn. The growth is rapid and in a few weeks each brick is impregnated with the fungus. The growth is stopped at just the right time by drying the brick and these bricks will keep indefinitely under proper conditions. When the spawn is to be used to sow a bed of mushrooms it is divided into small bits and these bits are planted about two inches deep and to fifteen inches apart in the beds prepared for it in the cave, cellar or house.

About three months are required for a bed to develop. Then the mushrooms come up thick and fast and in the market all that can be raised readily command 8c a pound.

The mushroom is not the plant itself but the fruit of the plant. The plant lies in the soil, resembles a tiny nest of little white threads or fibers. When the mushroom has been given to the world the plant dies and a new bed must be prepared and replanted.

The mushrooms grown in the cellar are the same as are found in the meadow or farmyard but they have an advantage over the meadow article in that there is no danger of getting them mixed up with toadstools. But to an expert—and any one may become an expert—this danger is remote. There is as much difference, except a colorable appearance, between toadstools and mushrooms as there is between a house and dog house. The easiest and surest way of learning the difference is to have some one already initiated explain it. There are several text books on the subject, but the mushroom method is unsatisfactory, for they say that the first trial is largely an experimental and may prove a failure unless tried on the dog.

The Grand Rapids plaster quarry where the mushrooms are grown is dark to absolute blackness and the cultivation and harvesting are all done by torchlight. To a stranger the sight is weird, indeed, to come suddenly upon one of the mushroom beds. The mushrooms growing singly and in bunches, in the torchlight have a brilliant whiteness and seem to rest on the light. Around the mushrooms, if closely examined, will be found scores of little slugs, which seem to thrive in the darkness.

Italian Ingenuity.

It has been discovered at the New York postoffice that numerous Italians residing in this country have invented a method of corresponding with their relatives and friends in Italy without replenishing their supply of postage stamps. This method consists in covering the face of the stamp with a light coating of invisible gum. The cancelling machine is prevented thereby from making an impression on the stamp itself. When the letter reaches its destination, the stamp is removed from the envelope and enclosed in a reply to the sender, who, thereupon washes off, with a damp sponge, the coating of gum, which carries with it the cancellation marks. Then the stamp has only to be moistened to qualify it to carry another letter across the ocean.

J. Remington Fairbanks, organist of the Presbyterian Church, Vice President-elect Hobart attends in Paterson, N. J., has received a letter of thanks from the Czar of Russia for writing a song entitled "A Little White Pigeon" and dedicating it to Princess Olga.

HOW TO FIND OUT.

Fill a bottle with urine and let it stand twenty-four hours; a sediment or settling indicates a diseased condition of the kidneys. When your urine stains your linen it is evident you have kidney trouble. Too frequent desire to urinate is convincing proof that your kidneys and bladder are out of order.

WHAT TO DO.

There is comfort in the knowledge so often expressed, that Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy, fulfills every wish in relieving pain in the back, kidneys, liver, bladder and every part of the urinary passages. It corrects inability to hold urine and scalding pain in passing it, and overcomes that unpleasant necessity of being compelled to get up during the night to urinate. The mild and extraordinary effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases. Sold by druggists at fifty cents and one dollar. For a sample bottle and book free mention this paper and send to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., six cents in stamps to cover cost of postage.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

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We the undersigned have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm.

WEST & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo.

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Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Piso's Cure for Consumption relieves pain in the chest, a dull heavy pain in the back, and a general feeling of weakness. Price 25 cents.

Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup. Price 25 cents.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays all pain, cures wind colic. 25c. a bottle.

Life

In miserable thousands of people who have the blood made thin and impure by malarial influence need the tonic properties of

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Hood's Pills cure all liver ills. 25c.

Corn

is a vigorous feeder and responds well to liberal fertilization. On corn lands the yield increases and the soil improves if properly treated with fertilizers containing not under 7% actual

Potash.

A trial of this plan costs but little and is sure to lead to profitable culture.

Our Agricultural Pamphlets, containing valuable information, sent free to all who apply to the

GERMAN KALI WORKS, 93 Nassau St., New York.

TRUMPET CALLS.

Ram's Horn Sounds a Warning Note to the Unredeemed.

THE moment a lie is born, it begins to run.

Isn't it about as wrong to be wrong as it is to do wrong?

Every converted man is a living proof that the Bible is true.

A lie is always an enemy, no matter how friendly it may look.

We would all love God more, if we would only trust him more.

How much praying is done in public that God isn't expected to hear.

Bringing prayers closer together is very apt to put sins farther apart.

The devil has a good start in every home where there is a moderate drinker.

The children of a millionaire can only be slightly acquainted with their father.

The man who would be strong in the Lord always must not feed his soul on stale bread.

There are preachers who do not claim acquaintance with Christ outside of the pulpit.

It is doubtful if the church loafer weighs any more for good than a loafer anywhere else.

The man who is holding on to a few favorite sins is playing hide and seek with the devil.

If the Bible in your home is simply a parlor ornament the devil may walk in and sit down on it.

If some men would get nearer to the Lord, they wouldn't have to talk so loud when they pray.

The Bible says that Job sinned not with his tongue, but it fails to say the same about his wife.

Isn't it strange that so many men think they can do most for the Lord where the pay is best?

The woman who marries a man to reform him has no time to take proper care of her complexion.

It is better to believe that there is some good in everybody than that there is no good in anybody.

Look at it this way: The world and everything in it is yours to help you make a true man of yourself.

The real Christian will not shut up his Bible and quit, because things fail to go as he wants them to go.

William McKinley will be thirty-four years of age at the time of his inauguration.

Rather Fine Soap has been made for Italy, but it will not be allowed. In the interests of the Italian people it should be made from olive oil.

The salary of President Diaz, of Mexico, is to be raised from $18,000 to $36,000 a year.

Plans for a statue of a Turkish and Sang [illegible] have been [illegible].—L. Cant, Birmingham, Eng., Nov. 12, 1896.

Tetterine... cures you of all skin diseases. "Blood purifiers" relieve you of your ...Cash... The difference. 1 box by mail for 50 cents in stamps. J. T. SHUPTRINE, Savannah, Ga. It Cures all Skin Diseases.

Gladness Comes

With a better understanding of the transient nature of the many physical ills which vanish before proper efforts—gentle efforts—pleasant efforts—rightly directed. There is comfort in the knowledge that so many forms of sickness are not due to any actual disease, but simply to a constipated condition of the system, which the pleasant family laxative, Syrup of Figs, promptly removes. That is why it is the only remedy with millions of families, and is everywhere esteemed so highly by all who value good health. Its beneficial effects are due to the fact, that it is the one remedy which promotes internal cleanliness, without debilitating the organs on which it acts. It is therefore all important, in order to get its beneficial effects, to note when you purchase, that you have the genuine article, which is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co., only, and sold by all reputable druggists.

If in the enjoyment of good health, and the system is regular, then laxatives or other remedies are not needed. If afflicted with any actual disease, one may be commended to the most skillful physicians, but if in need of a laxative, then one should have the best, and with the well-informed everywhere, Syrup of Figs stands highest and is most largely used, giving most general satisfaction.

Longstreet's Estimate of Grant.

General Longstreet, then commanding a corps in Lee's army, told me, several years after the war, that the evening on which news was received that Grant intended to give personal direction to the army which was to operate against Lee, he had a conversation on the subject at Lee's headquarters. An officer present talked very confidently of being able to whip with all ease the Western General who was to confront them, at which Longstreet said: "Do you know Grant?" "No," the officer replied. "Well, I do," continued Longstreet. "I was in the corps of cadets with him at West Point for three years, I was present at his wedding, I served in the same army with him in Mexico, I have observed his methods of warfare in the West, and I believe I know him through and through; and I tell you that we cannot afford to underrate him and the army he now commands. We must make up our minds to get into line of battle and to stay there; for that man will fight us every day and every hour till the end of this war. In order to whip him we must outmanœuver him, and husband our strength as best we can."—Century.

Bacon—Did you know there were over 747,013,559,000 different whist hands in a pack of cards? Egbert—Yes; my wife tells me about each one nearly every time we play.—Yonkers Statesman.

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S. N. U.—53.

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CCC HEAD Ache this Morning.

Shows you did not take a tablet of Cascarets Candy Cathartic last evening. Cascarets prevent sour stomach, tone up the intestines, stimulate the liver, leave no chance for sick headaches in the morning. You eat them like candy, and they leave your breath sweet and fragrant. Better send out for a box right now, 10c., 25c., 50c., any drug store, or mailed for price. Write for booklet and free sample.

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