BROOM CORN.

We make the following extract of a letter from a correspondent of this office, dated at West Glenville, Schenectady County, New York, to show the mode of culture and value of this agricultural product:—

"Broom corn for many years has been cultivated to a considerable extent with us, especially on the 'flat lands' lying along the Mohawk River, and is considered a profitable crop. The principal objections to growing it on 'up-lands' are, that it makes no fodder or manure, except the stalks, which are of but little importance, either as a fertilizer or for feed. They are generally consumed in the field after the brush is taken off. The usual method of cultivation is to plough the land in the spring, harrow it until the soil is pulverized and mellow, and then roll it down smooth with a revolving plank or log roller. The seed is sown with a drill, as early in the spring as the condition of the ground will admit, in rows, at the distance of three feet apart, and from six to eight inches apart in the drills. As soon as the corn is above ground, a narrow piece of ground on each side of the row is scraped with the hoe, to prevent the weeds from hindering its growth, the remaining space being left for the cultivator, which is frequently run to keep down the weeds. The cultivation is finally finished by running the plough twice to each row. The brush is cut while green, and as often as convenient. As it grows from eight to twelve feet high, the tops are first bent or lopped to one side and cut, with seven or eight inches of the stalk left on. Each stalk composes a brush."—*Agricultural Division of the Patent Office.*

New Building Material.—The Cleveland Herald speaks of a new kind of bricks which have been introduced there for building purposes. They have the appearance of granite, and are made of sand and lime, the blocks subjected to a great pressure while in nearly a dry state. In size they are ten by four and five inches and hollowed, the indented part being seven by one and a half inches. After the bricks are formed into shape and pressed, they are subjected to the action of the atmosphere, and soon become as hard as rock, and insensible to the frost or rain. These bricks cost twenty dollars per thousand; but the inventors say that they are cheaper than clay bricks that cost but three dollars, because they furnish so smooth an interior surface that no plastering is necessary, and being hollowed, the walls do not require to be furred.

Ticks on Sheep.—When sheep are fed salt, (which they should have often,) mix common sulphur with it thoroughly, so as to give each sheep a common-sized teaspoonful, and by the time you have given them three such portions, you will find the ticks have taken a furlough, and left for parts unknown. This is the cheapest remedy I have ever found, and I am satisfied that if sheep are fed with sulphur once a month, in this manner, through the year, they will never be troubled with ticks, and it will conduce to keep sheep in a healthy condition. I cannot give the modus operandi of the operation in full, but think the sulphur is acted upon chemically in the stomach of the animal, and, diffusing itself through the system, renders the skin offensive to the ticks, and they quit the premises. I keep a few sheep, and I never sell any ticks in my wool—neither do I see the poor creatures rub themselves against trees, fences, or stumps, and thus tear the wool off before shearing.

J. M. Westcott, *in Rural New Yorker.*

Barrington, N. Y.

A VALUABLE PAINT.

Messrs. Editors:—For the information of Mr. Philip, of Greene Co., and all others who are wishing to obtain a cheap and valuable paint for buildings, I would say, take common clay, (the same that our common bricks are made of,) dry, pulverize and run it through a sieve, and mix with linseed oil. You then have a firstrate fire-proof paint, of a delicate drab color. Put it on as thick as practicable.

If any one has doubts with regard to the above, just try it on a small scale—paint a shingle for instance and let it dry. Recollect that it must be mixed thicker than common paints.

The clay, when first dug, will be wet or damp, but will soon dry, spread in the air under a shelter, or, if wanted immediately, it may be dried in a kettle over a fire. When dry it will be in lumps, &c., and can be pulverized, by placing an iron kettle a few inches in the ground, containing the clay, and pounding it with the end of a billet of hard wood, 3 inches in diameter, 3 feet long, the lower end to be a little rounded, &c. Then sift it. Any clay will make paint, but the colors may differ, which can easily be ascertained by trying them on a small scale as above indicated. By burning the clay slightly you will get a light red, and the greater the heat you subject it to the brighter or deeper the red. A. B.—*Country Gent.*