RURAL TOPICS.

Some Practical Suggestions for Our Agricultural Readers.

As a termination to the periodical operations involved in the culture and care of all valuable plants, and all those not entirely hardy, against a winter of great severity, attention should be directed towards affording them some protection. The best method of protection to plants which can be so treated is to lay them prostrate and cover them with soil. Tender roses can easily be pegged down on the surface and covered. Heavy coverings are not necessary; the object is to guard against exposure to drying, freezing winds, and a covering one inch in depth will be sufficient. This covering may consist of rotted manure, sand, &c. In this manner grapes may be protected, and ripened shoots of figs may be safely put through the winter, if the soil covering is supplemented by a layer of leaves or strawy litter. Even the hardiest plants will respond to this timely attention by an increased vigor of growth next summer. Lawns are sometimes disfigured by being coated with rough manure at this season. One of the best methods of maintaining lawns is to top-dress them now with a sprinkling of ordinary good soil, mixed with a portion of lime, say one part lime to ten of soil; let this be evenly scattered over the grass, and it will sink down and nourish the root fibers. The shrubbery borders should not be neglected; a manure dressing will cause the plants to flower all the better when the blooming season arrives; but it is not good practice to dig or fork deeply near the roots of the plants; it is better to leave the manure on the surface, in this case, than to cover it.

CRIMSON CLOVER. (*Trifolium Incarnatum.*)

The carnation or crimson clover is an annual plant from Italy. It has long been grown in gardens for the beauty of its flowers, which are in spikes of a bright scarlet color; there is also a white flowering variety which is quite ornamental.

This species of clover has been recommended as yielding an abundant crop of excellent cattle-food in a short time. In the south of France, and in other parts of Europe, it is sown broadcast on grain stubble immediately after the crops are harvested, the soil receiving no preparation except that of loosening or stirring the surface with a harrow just enough to cover the seed. From this sowing a heavy crop is obtained early in the following summer, which is removed in time for plowing up the land—turning in the clover stubble and roots—and sowing it with turnips, planting it with potatoes or with some other late fall crop. This circumstance of its rapid growth in comparatively cool weather, suggests its importance as a forage plant in some of the Southern and in the warmer parts of the Middle States, where it might grow nearly all the winter.

Sown on grain stubbles, on cornfields after the removal of the stalks, or on cotton lands after the last working of the cotton plants, or probably after the picking is finished, a valuable addition to the supply of winter food for stock might be secured, and an important addition to fertility be gained by plowing down the remainder of the clover crop when preparing the land for spring cropping; and if left undisturbed by cattle during the spring months, a crop of hay might be harvested in April or May, according to the climate and latitude of the locality.

THE ROOTS OF THE TOBACCO PLANT.

Dr. Sturtevant says that the tobacco plant is a shallow rooter. The roots not only grow close to the surface, where is the greatest warmth, but when hoed and the nearest roots to the plant probably destroyed, the roots come to the surface again between the rows. Cultivation, by furnishing a friable soil, seems to increase largely the number of these surface roots, and they do not seem to have the power of entering land which is unbroken. The deepest root traced went down about twenty inches. There seems to be two systems of roots to this plant, one large and tapering quickly to a point, the others more in number, penetrating a distance of two and a half feet from the plant and but very slender, maintaining an equal thickness throughout. Some of these roots were seen to grow upward shortly after leaving the stem until they came nearly to the surface of the ground.

APPLES FOR KENTUCKY.

A member of the Kentucky Horticultural Society, after an experience and observation of a quarter of a century, recommends the following list of apples for that State: For summer—the Early Harvest, Golden Sweet, Red Astrachan, Early Strawberry, Early Margaret, and Maiden's Blush. For autumn—the Rambo, Fall Queen, and Fall Pippin. For early winter—the Rome Beauty, Ben Davis, and Northern Spy. For late winter keepers—the Rambo, Janet, Limber Twig, Penick, Shockley, and Smith's Cider. The latter name he suggests to change to the Smith Apple, as its present name indicates that it is only fit for cider or vinegar, instead of its being a valuable, good keeping table apple, which it is.

PICKLING SEED WHEAT.

A writer in an English agricultural paper remarks that, after trying many recipes for smut, such as steeping the seed in a strong solution of brine, and afterwards mixing it with quick-lime, soaking in urine, &c., all of which would occasionally fail, he believes that an infallible remedy against smut is simply to dissolve half a pound of blue vitriol in hot water and cool it to the temperature of new milk; then pour it over three bushels of wheat spread on a barn floor, turn it about three times, being very particular to have every grain wet. An ordinary water pail holds sufficient for eight bushels. He has used this preventive for twelve years with unvarying success upon land much subject to the plague in former years, and with ten varieties of wheat.

CATALOGUE RECEIVED.

Vick's Floral Guide for 1883, Rochester, New York. All of the publications of the late James Vick were unique examples of excellence in every respect—in valuable matter of information upon the subjects treated, in life-like and highly-finished illustrations, and neatness of typography. The Guide for 1883 issued by his sons, who promise worthily to fill his place, is not inferior to any which has heretofore been issued from the establishment. It is profuse in illustrations and minute in descriptive details, and every person interested in plants and flowers should procure a copy of this work.

INFLUENCE OF LIME ON THE GERMINATION OF SEEDS.

According to Dr. Liebenberg it appears that the seeds of many plants require the presence of lime in the soil during the germinating process, or the seedlings die for want of it. He has likewise shown that many other plants do not fail to germinate freely and well without the presence of lime in the soil. He also points out that plants which fail to grow through the absence of lime in the soil do not fail in consequence of the injurious effects of any other matters that may be present, but because lime is essential to their healthy growth.

FOOT ROT IN SHEEP.

A Vermont sheep raiser says that the best method of doctoring sheep for this malady is to wet every foot of every sheep in the flock, sound or lame, thoroughly with kerosene or coal oil, and put what sulphur you can take in the thumb and finger between the hoofs of each foot. Keep them in a dry place for twelve hours. Repeat this operation in about two weeks, and you will have no more trouble.

IMPORTING EGGS.

It may not be generally known that for many years large quantities of eggs are imported into this country. In a recent statement from the United States Bureau of Statistics it is announced that in the month of July last 1,436,414 dozen eggs were imported; and that in the seven months ending on July 31st, 6,960,477 dozen eggs were brought to this country, the estimated value of which was $1,021,705, all of which shows that poultry raising is very far from being overdone in this country.

CRIB-BITING.

Crib-biting is often a mere habit, but it may be caused by disease. Indigestion occasions a constant irritation and uneasiness, which may impel the horse to take hold with the teeth and stretch the neck as a means of relief. From this grows the habit of crib-biting and wind-sucking, which ceases when the cause is removed. As a remedy give the horse in his feed, daily, for a few weeks, one drachm of copperas and half an ounce of ground ginger, and feed him upon cut feed, with crushed or ground grain, and an ounce of salt in each feed.

COLIC IN HORSES.

Colic in horses is often brought on by feeding hay passed through cornstalk-cutters, mixed with meal, middlings or bran, then wet up. The horse eats this food thus prepared so rapidly that it is not properly masticated, and consequently becomes so clodded in the stomach as to cause indigestion, followed by colic, more especially if directly after eating he is allowed to drink heartily of water, and the colder this is so much more is it liable to bring on colic.

SAVE THE MANURE.

The test of good farming is found in the thoroughness with which every scrap of manure is cleaned from the barnyard, at least twice a year, for the use of crops. A considerable quantity of manure will accumulate during the summer, and is best applied as top-dressing for such wheat or grass as is to be ploughed next spring.

NOTES AND EXTRACTS.

A Digest of Information Collected From Various Sources.

I regard shade as indispensible to thrift and comfort of cattle in summer, and give no credence to the claim that cows will make more milk, or steers put on more flesh when deprived of shade. We feed to give animals thrift and comfort, and when we impose conditions that make comfort impossible there will not be much thrift. The cow that is compelled to graze in the hot sun, when she desires shade, will give no good return for what she eats, and the ox that can not refresh himself by shade when the sun burns his flesh, will make no profit for his owner. We feed cows for milk, it is true, but they do not require all the time to fill their stomachs. To do well they must have time to ruminate, and in hot weather shade is needed to make that process complete; that is to say, shade is the condition of comfort, and if not provided, the best returns for what is eaten will not be had.—*G. W. Hoffman, Elmira Farmer's Club.*

FENCE-POSTS.

A writer in an exchange says: I discovered many years ago that wood could be made to last longer than iron in the ground, but thought the process so simple that it was not well to make a stir about it. I would as soon have poplar, basswood or ash as any other kind of timber for fence-posts. I have taken out basswood posts after having been set seven years that were as sound when taken out as when first put in the ground. Time and weather seemed to have no effect on them. The posts can be prepared for less than two cents a piece. This is the recipe: Take boiled linseed oil and stir in pulverized coal to the consistency of paint. Put a coat of this over the timber, and there is not a man that will live to see it rot.

KEEPING ROOTS.

According to a Philadelphia paper this is the way the Landreths preserve turnips, beets, carrots and parsnips at Bloomingdale: Select a spot where the drainage is good. Dig a trench sixteen inches wide and as many more inches deep. Deposit the roots in this trench and cover with the earth taken out. More earth may be needed as winter approaches. If severe cold weather is expected place over all long stable manure or coarse litter of any kind.

CORN MEAL.

A new method of reducing corn to meal is now in operation up North, which is likely to supercede the old-fashioned mill-stone. The corn passes over a series of cylinders, provided with fine steel points, revolving rapidly against fixed knives, each set finer than the one in the rear. This meal is exceedingly fine, and as this machinery costs less than the old buhr stones, there is no excuse for hanging on to old methods.

KEEPING ACCOUNTS.

Unquestionably, it is essential to the success of farmers, as a class, that they be intelligently educated in the way of doing business and keeping a systematic account of all their operations on the farm and elsewhere. Such a training is just as necessary for them as a legal training is for the lawyer, a medical training for a doctor or a commercial training for the merchant.

LAND.

Little more than one-tenth of the available food-producing area of this continent is yet occupied, and much more of what is cultivated is very imperfectly worked. The mighty giant, American agriculture, is yet in its infancy.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Our Agricultural Editor's Weekly Chat With His Readers.

"What is the origin of the use of the mistloe in Christmas festivities?"—Lily, Philadelphia. *Ans.:* It is related that the misltoe, or mistletoe, was a special object of worship with the ancient Britons. The Druids sent round their attendant youths with its branches to announce the entrance of the new year. The origin of the modern custom connected with it is not very clear. It has been stated that if its original significance was known it would not be so popular as it is in some countries.

"Can you tell me something about drying fruits, such as blackberries and apples; which machine is best for the purpose, where it is manufactured, its cost, and how much shrinkage there is between the green and the dried article?" *Ans.:* We have no personal experience in fruit drying. From our exchanges we presume that the "Williams Evaporator" is very popular; we do not know where it is manufactured, nor its cost. We have seen it stated that apples will make from five to seven pounds per bushel, peaches from five to eight pounds per bushel, according to kinds and qualities; raspberries, one pound to three quarts green; sweet corn from twenty to twenty-five pounds per 100 pounds of green.

"I have collected some seeds from my asparagus bed, and I have been told that I should have sown it when gathered; will it not do to sow in the spring?"—J. R., Mahoning, Ohio. *Ans.:* Certainly; keep it in a cool, dry place all winter, and sow it in rows, like peas, as soon as practicable in spring.

"A portion of my meadow, a sort of rising knoll, is much overgrown with sorrel. I have limed it, but without any effect as yet. How can I get rid of it?"—Eastern Shore, Md. *Ans.:* Spread barnyard manure on it every fall until it disappears. This will enrich the ground so that the grasses will grow. We have repeatedly got rid of sorrel in this way. Two or three yearly applications may be needed.

Twelve Children Under Six Years.

[*From the Montreal (Can.) Witness.*]

Among the immigrants arriving at Bonaventure depot, recently, were George Kelsey, a native of the west of England, and forty-two years of age, and his wife from the same part. The twain have been married eighteen years. Within six years they have had twelve children, namely, triplets no less than twice, twice doublets, and twice "singles." As the parents sat in the depot, surrounded by their offspring, the youngest an infant in arms, the eldest looking little more than an infant, they were the subjects of the greatest interest, and many were the questions asked the happy mother, especially by the feminine portion of those in the depot awaiting the arrival of the train. The children were all healthy and robust, and the father and mother might be described as the same. The mother stated that her little ones had known no sickness more than the ordinary complaints incident to childhood.

A Small New England Family.

[*From the New England Medical Monthly.*]

Among the papers of the late Thomas Atwater, of New Haven Conn., the following memoranda were recently found:

"Mrs. Mabie, No. 100 Twenty-ninth Street, New York, of the firm of Topping & Co., has been married forty-eight months.

July 26th, 1858, had	1	child
July 30th, 1859, had	2	children
March 29th, 1860, had	2	"
March 4th, 1861, had	3	"
Feb. 13th, 1862, had	4	"
Total	12	"

These children were born within three years and seven months, and are all living and healthy. This is a copy from a memorandum given by the father, Mr. Mabie.

Get the Original.

Dr. Pierce's "Pellets"—the original "Little Liver Pills" (sugar-coated)—cure sick and bilious headache, sour stomach, and bilious attacks. By druggists.

WOMAN'S WORK.

Home, and How to Make It Beautiful and Happy.

"Happiness is of more moment to a woman than the solution of a problem of Euclid, and a new bonnet than the glories of a Salamis or Waterloo" was written lately by one in liberal translation of Balzac's well-known: "*Le bonheur est la poesie des femmes, comme la toilette en le fard.*" Balzac spent the best years of his life in devotion to one woman—a woman in every respect worthy of his homage, but notwithstanding this fact, we can scarcely believe that the great novelist uttered the above sentiment in some moment of pique. In most countries we find satire of women common among men of letters, and often also among men of no literary prestige, and while there seems to be something unworthy of manhood in the cynical attitude which men so often assume toward women, the most thoughtful of either sex must suspect an existing cause for so general an effect. "Let the axe be laid at the very root of the tree," is an injunction which was urged in the last TRIBUNE. Now, many of us behold the dwarfed and crooked tree, but how many of us know where to look for the *root?* We cannot but think that many of the complaints which are made against women might more justly be made against society, and by *society* we mean both men and women. Men think it worth while to meet each other, if not always wholly, at least with a measure of seriousness and unaffected respect, and usually each feels an imposed obligation to fulfill the expectation of the other. But in their intercourse with women, most men seem spontaneously to offer them their most trivial qualities of character, and by far the greater number of women seem to lack the strength to oppose their own idealizations or reverences, or best of all their innate, but quiet, self-respect to counterfeits which they recognize as such, but which they accept because nothing better is given them. Nobility of nature is responsive oftener than self-assertive, and a human being will readily reveal fine points to those who seem to wait for their presence; rarely will one reveal such unasked, but from the eye that is watching for dross, one will shut up the avenues to his better nature, and leave visible that only which is really the weakest and most insignificant part of him, and which with other handling might, in time, disappear. It seems to us that every womanly woman naturally values the esteem of men, and we have often wondered if the latter ever think of the obligation which this places upon them, or of the logical result of their own depreciating verdicts of women. Probably few homes will reveal a master and mistress, each of whom believes implicitly in the loyalty of the other; each of whom, possessing an unswerving faith in the other, unconsciously, through this very faith, nourishes—or even creates—that in which either believes. Wives and mothers failing to find, and as a result failing to give, that which was once eagerly expected, naturally let their lives run into such channels as seem easiest of entrance, and the happenings of the passing hour are allowed to compensate as best they may for the unfound requirements of home-life; girls bear the impress of their most intimate surroundings, and inevitably their characters reflect the contradictory influences at work in their homes. Most girls spend the most important period of their lives in young ladies' schools, in which little is done, or perhaps can be done, toward developing an inner life, or establishing oneness of thought or purpose, and thus, women go on in the pitiable rounds of undeveloped and misdirected energy, and from want of proper guidance and judicious encouragement they exist as "symptoms" rather than as completed beings.

Society, in its turn, demands that women continue year after year the same senseless rounds of social entertainments and displays, and it makes little difference that each new dress, each costly luncheon or dinner may mean one more tug at the life-powers of a father or a husband, or that the whole system is making simply a race of invalids of American women. The nations of the Old World looking upon us as a Republic which has for its use all preceding civilizations, and the experiences of preceding republics, have a right to expect much from us.

It does not seem to us that our women stand in need of delegated powers, and better, perhaps, a thousand times than all the clamor which we hear about woman-suffrage, would be the quiet, unpretentious effort of noble and cultivated women toward the shaping of a simple and natural national life, toward that spiritual and intellectual ennoblement of women which would make every mistress of our republican homes a queen in the right of her own simple, unaffected womanhood. No one is so strong, or so self-sufficient, as not, at some time, to need help or encouragement, and society will have reached a high point when each of its members unselfishly and in all loyalty and appreciation offers help to his fellows in the march toward nobler planes of living. To woman, with her fine sympathetic adaptation, her generous impulses, her splendid possibilities, we naturally turn, as to some holy and beautiful influence, in this matter of human ennoblement. Let us hope that it may not be her doom to be "weighed in the balance, and found wanting."

HOW TO MAKE LAMP-SHADES.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Lately I have seen many advertisements of a new artistic material called *Opalin.* Will some of your readers kindly give us a description of this material and directions as to its use?

For many weeks my fingers have been busy in the interests of Santa Claus, and for the benefit of your young lady readers, I am inclined to give a description of that part of my work which has met with general admiration. This has been a number of lamp-shades, such as I once learned to make in the heart of the Black Forest, Germany. The material for these shades is rice-paper, pressed grasses, mosses, delicate leaves and flowers, (wild flowers are best.) Cut the rice-paper into four or six sections, according to the size of the lamp, and fashion the sections according to the taste of the maker. Allow two leaves for each section. On one of the leaves arrange the grasses, &c., in as careless and natural a manner as possible; use a paste of gum arabic or tragacanth in securing the objects to the paper. When the material is dry, place over it the extra leaf of paper. If the edges of the section be scalloped with a pinking-iron, the pressure employed in this process is usually sufficient to make the leaves of paper adhere to each other. Secure the sections at the top by a rim of gold paper, or, better still, by one of the metal rims used for ordinary lamp-shades. If these shades be delicately made, the effect over a lighted lamp is that of an exquisite painting.

Accept, good TRIBUNE, for yourself and readers a cordial New-Year greeting from

AUNT HELEN.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

HINTS ON COLOR.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Your paragraph entitled: "*Charity begins at Home,*" in which you encourage correspondence upon all subjects relating to home-life, prompts me to write to you. I am a mother, a practical woman in whose sitting-room daughters and nieces are accustomed to hold many consultations over matters of the toilette. The ever-recurring questions about colors, tints and shades, with which I am assailed, impels me to beg from some helpful pen a few suggestive hints on color in dress. I am assured that a few simple, suggestive comments on this subject would be welcomed by many a perplexed mother. Very truly, yours,

MRS. R. PAYNE.

CEDAR GROVE, OHIO.

A MOTHER'S CARE.

"Mama's role in this country," writes Jennie June, "is that of a first-class duenna, and she dresses darkly and soberly in accordance with it. Of course, I mean the 'mama' of grown-up daughters. Her object is to dress them, to see them as well started as other girls, to give them opportunities and the chance to make the most of them, according to her light. She often sacrifices to these ends her own most cherished possessions, her daintiest laces, her jewels, her laid-away garments or dresses, and the best part of the income she has been in the habit of bestowing on herself and her own wants and tastes. Sweets to the sweet—and brightness for the young and bright! Is there not a degree of unconscious heroism in this frequent laying down of what has made life pleasant and desirable before life has ended, in order to make it happier for those who come after us? At any rate mamas in their quiet black, grey, and dark wine colors, with their subdued expression and habit of waiting on the movements of their laughing, chatting, handsome daughters, have a melancholy interest for me. I wonder how much of the process which has transformed them from such girls into such women has been conscious or unconscious, and whether it was painful? Whether it was accompanied by a very sudden wrench or by gradual repression and unfolding? Ah, well! There are more saints in this world than are down in the calendar, and they may be found where least expected—even in a city ball-room."

FASHION NOTES, &C.

Nothing is more offensive to taste than an overdressed young girl.

Fron Frou dresses will be the favorite for New Year's Day toilets.

White marabout ruches make exquisite trimmings for tulle dresses.

The demi-train remains in vogue for reception and dancing parties.

Plush trims everything and forms many entire costumes and wraps.

White and tinted laces trim house wrappers and house jackets admirably.

Red camel's hair pelisses trimmed with black fur are much worn by little girls.

Little girls of seven or eight wear silk Jersey waists with skirts of the new checked velvet.

The adoption of velvet for evening dress has led to its being used largely for bridal toilets.

Lace ruches, high in the throat, remain the favorite lingerie of ladies with long, slender necks.

The Jersey is not suitable for outdoor midwinter wear unless it is over a waist of chamois or heavy flannel.

It is "bad form," as well as bad taste, for a girl in her teens to wear a dress that would become a woman of twenty-five or thirty.

The Muscovite pardessus, a circular mantle with sleeves, is a great favorite in Paris, where it is worn by ladies, young girls, and children.

Out-of-door costumes, plain or elaborate, are frequently draped with a large brooch of antique silver looping the tunic or the scarf tablier.

Cords of many-colored wools, finished off with olives, form the Brandenbourgs which fasten the corsages of many costumes, or drape the tunic and trim the skirt.

Gauze Balbriggan stockings are worn inside of silk and cashmere stockings, giving additional warmth, and protecting the skin from the dye or roughness of the outer stocking.

Very large masculine hats of beaver plush are revived; the favorite trimmings for them being a band around the crown and a large buckle in front or ostrich tips or plumes in a tuft on the side.

There is a fancy at the moment for ladies to wear dog-skin gloves stiched on the back and double-stiched on the fingers, just like gentlemen's gloves. The correct number of buttons on them is four.

Black lace flounces and a back drapery of a black lace shawl may be very effective on buttercup or jonquil yellow dresses, but none but a married woman or young lady in the thirties should wear such dresses.

Buttercup and jonquil yellow have been discovered to be very becoming evening colors, particularly when trimmed with tinsel and white marabout feathers, or with humming-bird and Impeyan crest and neck feathers.

THE KITCHEN.

Croquettes of Rice.—Half a pound of rice, one quart of milk, one-quarter pound of butter, half a pound of sugar, one lemon, five eggs and some bread crumbs. Put the rice and milk into a pudding boiler and let it simmer until quite tender, rub the grated rind of a lemon with the sugar, add it to the rice and the yolks of the eggs well beaten and stir it until the eggs thicken. When cold, form into small balls. Dip each ball into the beaten whites, and then into the bread crumbs, smooth them with a knife, repeat the eggs and crumbs, and put them in a frying sieve and fry lightly in boiling lard. When done drain them, pile them on a dish and sift powdered sugar over; serve hot.

Oyster Omelet.—Twelve oysters, six eggs, a tablespoonful of flour, a half cup of milk. Beat the eggs very light, first the yolks and the whites. Add the oysters, minced finely, to the yolks. Then the flour, which must be blended to a paste with the milk. Pepper and salt to taste. Some pieces of minced parsley. Add the beaten whites, and pour into a pan with boiling butter and fry brown. Do not turn; serve as soon as cooked. The omelet will be less diluted with water if the oysters come to a boil in their liquor and are drained and then chopped and added to the omelet before frying.

Mayonnaise of Chicken.—Take some young chickens, fry them until done, but not browned, when cold pick the meat from the bones, cut in small pieces and place in the salad bowl with a tablespoonful of oil, a tablespoonful of lemon juice, two or three rounds of an onion well minced, a teaspoonful of salt, a little cayenne, mix all thoroughly together and let it stand two hours. Drain off the dressing, place some lettuce leaves on the salad bowl, spread over the chicken and more lettuce leaves on the chicken. Prepare a mayonnaise and pour over the chicken.

Cocoanut Cake.—To the well-beaten yolks of six eggs add two cups of powdered white sugar, three-fourths of cupful of butter, one of sweet milk, three and a half of flour, one level teaspoonful of soda and two of cream of tatar, and the whites of four eggs—well beaten; bake in jelly-cake pans. For icing, grate one cocoanut, beat whites of two eggs, and add one teacupful of powdered sugar; mix thoroughly with the grated cocoanut and spread evenly on the layers of cake when they are cold.

Breakfast Waffles.—After breakfast stir into the hominy that is left one teaspoonful of butter and a little salt. Set it aside. The next morning thin it with milk and add two eggs, beaten well. Stir in flour enough to make the right consistency, and bake in waffle-irons.

Southern Biscuit.—Two cups of self-rising flour, one spoonful of lard; mix with warm milk; knead into soft dough, and roll; cut with biscuit-cutter and prick each with a straw. Cook in a hot oven ten minutes.

Palmetto Flannel Cakes.—One pint of buttermilk, two well-beaten eggs, flour enough to make a stiff batter—the flour to be *mixed*, half wheat and half corn flour. Put a spoonful of sea-foam into the flour and cook on a griddle.

Mrs. Gen. McClellan's Indian Nurse.

[*From the Green Bay Gazette.*]

A remarkable civilized Indian woman died the other day at the Oneida Reservation, west of Green Bay. She was known as Aunt Polly Doxtater, and when young was quite well educated and brought up by a Quaker near Philadelphia. In her young days she was employed in several families of note in those days, and was nurse of Mrs. General George B. McClellan when that lady was a baby. The maiden name of the deceased was Polly Mytop. Her parents belonged to the Delaware nation and resided about thirty-five miles from Philadelphia. She was born at Cape May, N. J., March 17, 1785. From her own account of the circumstances of her birth it appears that her parents had gone with an excursion of members of their nation to Cape May for the purpose of gathering the eggs of sea gulls. While there the subject of this notice was born. While quite young she was bound to Robert Hollingshead, a Quaker, remaining with him until the year 1802.

Baby Charley.

[*By Sidney Lanier.*]

He's fast asleep. See how, O wife,
Night's finger on the lip of life
Bids whist the tongue, so prattle rife,
Of busy Baby Charley.

One arm stretched backward round his head,
Five little toes from out the bed
Just showing, like five rosebuds red,
So slumbers Baby Charley.

Heaven-lights, I know, are beaming through
Those lucent eyelids, veined with blue,
That shut away from mortal view
Large eyes of Baby Charley.

O sweet Sleep Angel, throned now
On the round glory of his brow,
Wave thy wing and waft my vow
Breathed over Baby Charley.

I vow that my heart, when death is nigh,
Shall never shiver with a sigh
For act of hand, or tongue, or eye,
That wronged my Baby Charley!

—*Lippincott's for January.*

Dr. PIERCE'S "Favorite Prescription," for all those weaknesses peculiar to women, is an unequalled remedy. Distressing backache and "bearing-down" sensations yield to its strength-giving properties. By druggists.

PRISON EXPERIENCES.

Little Red Cap's Revelations Concerning Andersonville Horrors.

[*Continued from last week.*]

In my last article I quoted from the testimony of Professor Joseph Jones—a surgeon in the confederate army—at the Wirz trial, to show that I had not exaggerated the horrors of Andersonville. The truth is, that our friends at home did not believe, at first, the reports which they received of the tortures to which we were subjected there, and I well remember that when I returned home and told how, one after the other, my comrades had died of starvation and disease, some of the neighbors became very indignant because they thought I was representing matters as worse than they really were, and thereby causing needless sorrow and anguish to their friends and relations. But to return to Professor Jones. Further on in his testimony he says:

"The supply of medical officers has been insufficient from the foundation of the prison. In the stockade, with the exception of the damp lowlands bordering the small stream, the surface was covered with huts and small ragged tents and parts of blankets and fragments of oilcloth, coats and blankets, stretched upon sticks. The tents and huts were not arranged according to any order, and there was, in most parts of the enclosure, scarcely room for two men to walk abreast between the tents and huts. There were nearly 5,000 seriously ill Federals in the stockade and confederate states military prison hospital, and the deaths exceeded 100 per day, and large numbers of the prisoners who were walking about, and who had not been entered upon the sick reports, were suffering from severe and incurable diarrhœa, dysentary and scurvy. I visited 2,000 sick within the stockade, lying under some long sheds, which had been built at the northern portion for themselves. At this time only one medical officer was in attendance, whereas at least twenty medical officers should have been employed. At the time of my visit to Andersonville a large number of Federal prisoners had been removed to Millen, Savannah, Charleston, and other parts of the confederacy in anticipation of an advance of General Sherman's forces from Atlanta, with the design of liberating their captive brethren. However, about 15,000 prisoners remained confined within the limits of the stockade and confederate states military prison hospital.

A PLACE OF HORRORS.

After giving a long and detailed description of the various diseases that came under his observation, he says:

"The haggard, distressed countenances of these miserable, complaining, dejected, living skeletons, crying for medical aid and food, and cursing their Government for its refusal to exchange prisoners, and the ghastly corpses with their glazed eyeballs staring up into vacant space, with the flies swarming down their open and grinning mouths, and over their ragged clothes, infested with numerous lice, as they lay amongst the sick and dying, formed a picture of helpless, hopeless misery which it would be impossible to portray by words or by the brush. The manner of disposing of the dead was also calculated to depress the already desponding spirits of these men, many of whom had been confined for months, and even for nearly two years, in Richmond and other places, and whose strength had been wasted by bad air, bad food and neglect of personal cleanliness. The dead-house is merely a frame covered with old tent-cloth and a few bushes, situated in the southwestern corner of the hospital grounds. When a patient dies, he is simply laid in the narrow street in front of his tent until he is removed by Federal negroes detailed to carry off the dead; if a patient dies during the night he lies there until morning, and during the day even the dead were frequently allowed to remain for hours in these walks. In the dead-house the corpses lie upon the bare ground and were in most cases covered with filth and vermin. The cooking arrangements are of most defective character. Five large iron pots, similar to those used for boiling sugar cane, appeared to be the only cooking utensils furnished by the hospital for the cooking of nearly two thousand men; and the patients were dependent in great measure upon their own miserable utensils. They were allowed to cook in the tent-doors and in the lanes, and this was another source of filth, and another favorable condition for the generation and multiplication of flies and other vermin. The air of the tents was foul and disagreeable in the extreme, and, in fact, the entire grounds emitted a most nauseous and disgusting smell. I entered nearly all the tents and carefully examined the cases of interest, and especially the cases of gangrene, upon numerous occasions during the prosecution of my pathological inquiries at Andersonville, and, therefore, enjoyed every opportunity to judge correctly of the hygiene and police of the hospital. There appeared to be almost absolute indifference and neglect on the part of the patients of their personal cleanliness; their persons and clothing in most instances, and especially of those suffering with gangrene and scorbutic ulcers, were filthy in the extreme and covered with vermin. It was too often the case that patients were received from the stockade in a most deplorable condition. I have seen men brought in from the stockade in a dying condition, begrimed from head to foot with their own excrements, and so black from smoke and filth that they resembled negroes rather than white men."

Professor Jones closes as follows:

"Finally, this gigantic mass of human misery calls loudly for relief, not only for the sake of suffering humanity, but also on account of our own brave soldiers, now captive in the hands of the Federal Government. Strict justice to the gallant men of the confederate armies, who have been or who may be so unfortunate as to be compelled to surrender in battle, demands that the confederate government should adopt that course which will best secure their health and comfort in captivity, or at least leave their enemies without a shadow of an excuse for any violation of the rules of civilized warfare in the treatment of prisoners."

THE MAXIMUM MORTALITY.

The greatest number of deaths in any one day is reported to have occurred on the 23d of August, when the total number was one hundred and twenty-seven, or one man every eleven minutes; but I think this statement must be incorrect. I remember that it was currently reported that on one day in August the deaths exceeded two hundred. At this time the dead-house was cleared out every evening, and some of the boys counted over two hundred dead lying in a row.

I was still living at this time with Wirz and his family. His two step-daughters, Susan and Cornelius, seemed to be very fond of my company. I had learned to play cards while in the army, and, as they were acquainted with some of the games, we used to play together frequently. I had learned a number of tricks with cards, and they were a great source of amusement. They were good singers, by the way, and Susan taught me popular songs. One day I took a fine gold ring from Cornelia's finger, and though she always declared I must give it back to her, I never did so. I lost it at Camp Parole, Annapolis, Maryland, after my return. Captain Richard Winder, I remember, also frequently came out to Wirz's house in the evenings and sang and played the guitar. Cora Wirz lost a pet rabbit about this time, and we made arrangements to bury it with great ceremony. At the conclusion of the funeral service, Cora and I disagreed about something, and she gave way to a perfect torrent of abuse, calling me all kinds of "blue-bellied Yankees." This, as with her father, seemed to be her pet phrase when she was angry. One evening General Winder came home with Wirz. As they rode up to the gate, old Wirz remarked: "General, this is a little Yankee from Maryland." Winder, turning to me, inquired: "Where are you from, sir?" "Maryland," I replied. "Are you not ashamed of yourself," said he, "coming as you do from a Southern State, to be in the Federal army?" And his aspect was so fierce and forbidding that I feared he would strike me with his cowhide. During my stay at Wirz's home I succeeded in getting a fresh supply of clothing. I feared the temper of old Wirz, and I did not know what day he might fly into a rage and turn me back into the stockade. I had become well acquainted with Mrs. Baas, the wife of the gentleman who owned the house, and she had kindly furnished me with lodging. I told her of the condition of my clothing, and we soon set about replacing it. I managed to smuggle in some meal sacks from the cook-house, and she washed them and made them up into pants and shirts for me. I then secured a little box sufficiently large enough to hold them, and she fixed it up, so that I was prepared for another siege. I always believed that Mr. and Mrs. Baas were Union people, and, indeed, the old gentleman, who had been conscripted into the Georgia reserves and was guarding the stockade, told me one day that he was a thorough Union man, and hoped for the success of the Federal army; but at the same time cautioned me not to betray him.

TRAINING THE BLOOD-HOUNDS.

Turner, the hound-keeper, had now moved his hounds to the neighborhood of Wirz's house, and occasionally would spend a whole day in training them. When this was going on I was usually on hand. A negro slave would be started out, and his route mapped out for him. After he had gotten some distance away the hounds would be put upon his trail, and off they would go yelling and whooping like so many fiends. The slave would generally go up through the swamps and woods on one side of the railroad, and return on the other. When the hounds got dangerously close he was to climb a tree, which he always did. Turner used to tell him: "Make your circuit wide enough; for if you come back too close the trail you went upon, and the breeze happens to be blowing towards the hounds, they will take up the scent and cross to your trail in close proximity to your heels, instead of following your trail around." While the chase was in progress, Turner and his accomplices would remain at the starting point and discuss the merits of the respective hounds. If any of the hounds lost the trail and become confused, Turner and his assistant would mount their mules, standing in readiness, and hunt them up. For a while Turner kept in a pen at Wirz's house two large bull terrier hounds, for the purpose, as I learned, of letting them loose upon such prisoners as might offer resistance to the hounds when caught. The plan was to have them chained to the saddles of the pursuers, so that they could be let loose to accomplish their brutal work at the opportune time. One morning, to our great surprise, one of these ferocious dogs was found dead in the pen, and upon investigation Turner declared the dog had been poisoned. This alarmed me very much for a short time, for I was afraid that they suspected me of having killed the dog, and would inflict some severe punishment, but fortunately they never mentioned my name. As a matter of fact I did not poison the beast, and have no idea to this day who did.

[*To be continued.*]

Answers to Correspondents.

Minnie, Ill.—Your parents were right. The District of Columbia belongs neither to Virginia nor to Maryland, but is a separate domain, as much so as a territory, and is under the exclusive control of Congress. Thanks for your good opinion. We should think the claim ought to be settled very soon.

J. F. P., Sturgis, Mich.—It is absolutely impossible for the editor to state the reason why each particular claim is delayed. It would consume too much time. In the majority of cases such claims are awaiting testimony to complete them, or replies to calls for some. The attorney in a claim should be able to inform the claimant of the facts in his case. *All* claims on file are in process of adjudication, and if *all* the necessary testimony has been filed the claim will probably be acted upon very soon. Those claims which are complete are taken up and acted upon without regard to their numbers. As we have before stated, with the present large force employed, claimants may expect action in their claims with reasonable promptness. We know that it is the desire of the Commissioner to pass upon *all* the claims in his office as rapidly as possible, and we think that, in future, claimants will not have any reasonable grounds for complaint in this respect.

L. G. C., Farmington, Ill.—Yours is an *invalid* claim. See reply to J. F. P.

S. A., Traverse City, Mich.—It depends upon circumstances. Examinations of claimants are made at any time during the progress of the claim, as often as deemed necessary. It does not, therefore, follow that when a claimant is ordered for examination that his claim is otherwise complete. See reply to J. F. P.

J. L., Canby, and J. L. S., Copula, N. Y.—See preceding replies.

Vet., Oxford, Iowa.—Claims are finally acted upon in a month or six weeks, usually, after all proof has been filed. See, also, reply to J. F. P.

R. F., Jackson Station, Ind.—1. The children are not entitled. 2. You are entitled to arrears on the other disability, and when you have proved it up to the satisfaction of the Pension Office, pension therefor will date from your discharge from service. Your attorney should call up your claim and ascertain what further testimony is required.

J. D., Wager, Ark.—So far as we know they are reliable. We do not understand what you mean by your question: "Whether they have any demand for *their* news?"

R. B. G., Huntsville, Ill.—Your letter has been referred to a competent attorney, who will write you in regard to matters mentioned.

M. V., Dauphin, Mo.—Examinations by pension surgeons for *all* disabilities found to exist (whether claimed or not) are made to enable the Pension Office to better understand the physical condition of the claimant, and should the claimant at any time file a new claim for disabilities other than that alleged in his pending claim it would be shown by the report of the examining surgeon whether or not same existed at the date of examination mentioned. Does not interfere with your present claim.

W. P., Holton, Kan.—There appears to us no good reason why you should not be informed. Ask your attorney.

G. W. G., Potomac, Ill.—You will find a complete answer to your inquiries in regard to the G. A. R., and manner of organizing new Posts, in our issue of October 12, 1882, No. 61.

B. C. W., Kingfield, Me.—You are not entitled to arrears because