Needle Mine in a Pincushion.

A few days ago Mrs. J. H. Brown, of Haynesville, Me., ripped open a needle cushion which was filled with bran, and had been in use fifteen years. On emptying out the contents she found 340 needles, all but twenty-eight being good ones.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Over seventy years have elapsed since the first railway in the world was finished. During that time 400,000 miles of railway have been constructed.

Sand Soap for Boys.

One of the best things for cleaning boys' hands is sand soap. It may be made at home, and so made is cheaper and better than any which can be purchased. Scrape or cut into small pieces any pure soap and melt it. As soon as the soap is melted take the dish from the fire and stir into the mixture clean, dry sea sand that has been heated. Use nearly as much sand as you have soap. As soon as the mixture is cool enough to handle, roll it into balls between the palm of the hands and put the balls into a dark, cool place to harden and dry.

Great Britain imports annually 56,000,000 bushels of oats. During 1896 the United States furnished an unusually large proportion of these requirements.

The Texas House has passed a bill prohibiting Sunday baseball.

COOKED FOOD DOES NOT PAY.

Cooking of grain and meal for stock is only profitable when it is done in cold weather and the feed is given while still warm. A temperature at or near animal heat is an advantage, as the stomach has to warm it to that extent. But the heat required for cooking carbonaceous food expands it so that the stomach can contain less of it. If the digestion be good the uncooked food will, in the same bulk, have the most nutriment and do the greatest good.

SHUTTERS FOR BARN WINDOWS.

A few clean windows on the sunny side will admit a very appreciable amount of heat during a sunny day. You may say there is loss of considerable heat through these windows during cloudy days and nights. But we have learned to prevent much of this loss in our house by means of double windows for cold weather. May it not be true that it would be wise to adopt the same expedient in our barns, or accomplish the same end by means of tight wooden shutters to cover most of the windows when the sun does not shine?—Dr. F. L. Russell, in Massachusetts Ploughman.

CISTERNS UNDER BARNS.

Every barn will shed from its roof enough water for all the stock that can be kept on the feed it contains or the cattle it will shelter. If this water is duly conducted into a cistern in the barn basement, and filtered before using, it is much the best water the stock can have for drink. In the basement the water will never be down to freezing temperature, which is an important matter, as every degree of cold has to be warmed to animal heat by the carbonaceous food that the animal has digested. If it is a milch cow that has its water thus warmed, it detracts just so much from the butter fats which the milk will contain. That is about as expensive warmth, even at low prices for butter, as the farmer ever pays for.

NATIVE SPECIMENS PREFERRED.

A generation ago it was quite the fashion in this country to plant foreign trees, both for shade and for profit. Quite a number of plantations were made of Scotch larch, Austrian pine and other trees of foreign growth. This was especially the case with some plantations in Massachusetts, and the use of foreign trees was recommended by some of the higher authorities in this section. The result has proved a serious mistake. The foreign trees have not been thrifty or profitable. The native trees have far outstripped them in growth, in vigor and in profit. The fact is we have a greater variety of native trees in this country than any other nation can boast, and it would seem to be far better policy to develop our own native resources, rather than to attempt doubtful experiments with foreign trees. Even those experts who recommended the planting of foreign trees in years gone by have withdrawn that recommendation, and now preter the native specimens.—Boston Cultivator.

SPRING TREE PLANTING.

Persons desiring to plant trees in the spring will do well to dig the holes for the trees in the fall or at any time in the winter when the ground is not frozen. Usually trees are planted in clay soils. The freezing and thawing fines the earth around the sides of the hole and also the earth thrown out of the hole. If this is placed in a heap as it should be it sheds the water and is dry enough for planting much earlier in the season than earth from newly dug holes. This plan also facilitates early spring planting. The holes should be two feet in diameter and two feet deep. Mr. Vergon, who has large orchards near Delaware, pursues this plan in all his planting and when going over his place a few weeks ago, I saw hundreds of holes ready for spring planting. The soil was in choice condition for the trees. It had been raining nearly all day yet on examination we found the soil in suitable condition for immediate planting. If water is standing in the holes when planting time comes it is baled out. Mr. Vergon's orchards have been planted in sod away from the trees he has. He has succeeded in securing nice thrifty bearing trees of nearly every tree planted. The 15th of December he had about 6000 bushels of choice apples in his fruit cellars.—Silver Knight.

CROSSING DUCKS FOR MARKET.

Every attempt made to procure choice ducks for market by crossing the breeds has resulted in dissatisfaction compared with the use of the pure-bred Pekins. The Cayuga and Pekin cross is an excellent one, but the black pin-feathers of the Cayuga make picking more laborious. Crosses of Rouens and Pekins have not given any advantages, and the same is true of the Aylesbury and Peking Cross The cross of the Muscovy drake and Pekin ducks gives fine market birds, but the cross-bred birds are quite sterile, their eggs not hatching. So far the Pekin seems to hold its ground as a market duck against all competitors. Ducks should be laying eggs at this season of the year, and if properly managed they will do much better than hens. Give them animal food, such as ground meat, at least once a day, and also a mess of cut clover, scalded. They prefer soft food, such as cooked turnips, thickened with equal parts of bran and cornmeal, which provides an excellent meal for them. If laying regularly, give them a meal three times a day. Keep the floor of their quarters covered two inches deep with straw, and also keep the quarters clean, as ducks will not thrive on damp floors.—Farm and Fireside.

CAVALRY HORSES.

The specifications laid down by the Government under which cavalry horses are bought are as follows: The cavalry horse must be sound, well-bred and of superior class; gentle under the saddle, free from vicious habits, with free and prompt action at the walk, trot and gallop; without blemish or defect; of kind disposition, with easy mouth and gait and otherwise to conform to the following description: A gelding of uniform and hardy color, in good condition, from 15.1 to 16 hands high, weighing not less than 950 or more than 1150 pounds, and from four to eight years old; head and ears small, forehead broad, eyes large and prominent with perfect vision in every respect; shoulders long and sloping well back; chest full, broad and deep; forelegs straight and standing well under; barrel large and increasing from girth toward flank; withers elevated, back short and straight, loins and haunches broad and muscular, hocks well bent, and under the horse, pastern slanting, and feet small and sound. Each horse will be subjected to a rigid inspection, and any animal that does not meet the above requirements in every respect will be rejected. A horse under four years old will not be accepted unless he be an especially fine animal well developed. Every accepted animal must be provided with a strong hemp halter free of charge to the Government.

FEEDING THE SOIL.

The trouble with most farmers is, they are eternally taking from the soil and never adding to it. There are many ways to feed it. Use all the stable manure you can get, haul out in November and plow under, so that it will not rot through the winter. But there are cheaper ways of feeding than with stable manure. The last time you plow the corn, sow cow peas, cut and shock the fodder, which makes good feed for cattle and horses, just before the frost turn the pea vines under. This improves the land greatly for next year's crop, besides having ground in good shape next spring. Follow oats with sowed corn. Immediately after oats are cut, break the ground, and sow about one bushel of corn per acre, which will come up immediately and grow fast. Let it get about waist high, put a good heavy chain on your plow and turn under the corn, which will soon rot. This can be sown to wheat, or back to oats in the spring, or to corn. Another excellent way is to sow rye the last time you plow the corn. This will make one of the finest fall and winter pastures. Plow under in the spring if you want to plant back to corn. Or if to wheat, let it get up ready to head out and plow under. Be sure not to let the seed mature, or it will ruin the wheat. Try some of the above plans, and you will be well paid for your trouble.—Coleman's Rural World.

EGGS FOR HATCHING.

Eggs for hatching should only be saved from strong, well-mated fowls. Upon this, to a great extent, depend the fertility of the eggs, and the vigor of the young chicks. When the weather is severe the eggs should be gathered several times a day; an egg that has been the least bit frosted won't hatch. Eggs intended for hatching should be carefully laid upon a soft cloth in a single layer and turned every day, and should never be kept over four weeks. Fresh eggs hatch better and make stronger chicks.

There is an easy way of testing eggs for hatching. Inside the large end of a fresh egg there is a small empty space about two inches in circumference. This circle can be seen through the shell by holding between a strong light and the eye. If the egg is several weeks old, this circle is considerably enlarged, and if a watery substance can be seen in this enlarged circle, when the egg is moved, lay it aside, for it is a spoilt egg so far as hatching is concerned.

When necessary to order eggs to introduce new blood into the flock, it is best to get them as near home as possible. They are less liable to become damaged, and the express charges will not be near so high as when ordered from a distance. When setting valuable eggs, it is a good plan to distribute them among several hens; then if one should leave the nest or prove a poor sitter, there will not be an entire loss.—New England Homestead.

FOUR WAYS OF FEEDING CORN.

The Vermont Experiment Station has reported its test of feeding the corn crop to milch cows to determine the best method of preserving the corn plant for winter use.

Four methods were tried: 1. The whole plant was run through the cutter into the silos. 2. The ears were husked, cribbed, dried, and ground, cob and all, and fed with the stalks, that had been made into silage. 3. The corn was cut and cured in large shocks, and before feeding was run through a cutter, ears and all. 4. The corn was husked from the fodder, ground with the cob, and fed with the stover that was cut as needed.

Analysis showed that the loss from each method was practically the same, except where the shocks were left exposed as the winter progressed the loss increased. In the silage the ears lost more of their value than in the shock or crib. Time and money spent husking and grinding the ears was wasted, as better results were obtained when the ears were left on the stalks and all run through the cutter before feeding. The silage forms were most relished by the cows and the dairy product greatest.

The experiments confirm the common opinion that for dairy cows the corn crop in the form of silage is more valuable than in dry fodder and meal. For steer feeding there is some evidence going to show that steers feed on shock corn run through the cutter, ears and stalks, make better growth than where the corn is husked and the fodder and ears or meal fed separately.

Oregon has 25,000 acres of prune orchards.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

The most recent estimate of geologists as to the age of Niagara Falls is nine thousand years. It was formerly calculated at forty thousand.

A new dental chair is so arranged as to bring all the working parts of the chair up to a higher position for use when a child is treated, and can be again lowered to normal position for larger persons.

Knowing the average diameter of Jupiter, as well as that of the earth, it can be shown by a little calculation that so far as bulk is concerned, not fewer than 1230 globes, each as large as the earth, would be rolled together into one to form a single globe as big as Jupiter.

Not long ago Professor Verrill exhibited to the members of the National Academy of Sciences in New York some beautiful examples of mollusks, dwelling in the Sargasso Sea, that imitate not only the seaweed among which they live, but even the parasitic growths found upon the weeds.

At a meeting of the Royal Society Professor McKendrick described a method by which it was possible to stimulate electrically the sensory nerves of the skin "so that some of elements of music—rhythm and intensity—might be perceived and even enjoyed by those who had become deaf."

Professor Simon Newcomb, in a recent paper, discussed the question of stellar distances. He said the stars of small magnitude were evidently not as remote from the earth as their faintness would indicate, and this fact seemed to warrant the inference that the visible universe has a definite limit in space.

The red-colored snow frequently mentioned in scientific reports of polar expeditions, and formerly deemed of miraculous origin, is now known to be colored by a minute vegetable organism, which is sometimes found in enormous quantities, and which grows to perfection at a temperature below freezing.

A Japanese man of science, Mr. Muraoka, reports in a German scientific journal, the curious results obtained by him last summer while experimenting with the light of glowworms. He operated with three hundred glowworms at Kyoto, and he says that the light which they emitted, when filtered through cardboard or copperplates, showed the properties of X-rays, or Becquerel's fluorescence rays.

A "New Horse."

Down in the livery stable of William Simpson, on Central avenue, is as strange a looking horse as man has ever seen. It far outrivals the famous fake "wooly horse" that an old time showman palmed off on an unsuspecting public years ago, in that this new equine wonder is very real, can trot a mile considerably under three minutes and bear the closest inspection of the doubting and inquisitive.

The horse is the property of the little thirteen-year-old son of Mr. Simpson, and while not exactly a beautiful beast to look upon, certainly has a unique style all its own. Instead of the usual sleek hide and flowing mane and tail of the ordinary nag, this equine paradox has a coat of tight, curling hair and no mane or tail worth mentioning in a horse sale advertisement, unless the buyer was to be a showman of oddities. The mare is well built and sound in every particular, "kind, docile and easy to handle by woman or child," as the advertisement would say. She is five years old, stands fifteen hands high and weighs about ten hundred, and behaves like any other being of her race. But her bay colored coat is for all the world like a buffalo robe, in the curly, kinkiness of its hair, and where the hair has become worn off on the head by the bridle or halters and on the shoulder where burrs have been pulled out it becomes very much in appearance like an old moth eaten buffalo robe that has just been pulled out of some neglected, dusty closet for use in the first sleighride of the season. The mare can boast no mane or forelock, and her stump of a tail is only sparsely covered with short hairs. When she sheds her coat according to the regular horsey custom the tail is as bare as a rat's.

This oddity in horseflesh comes of good stock, having been sired by St. Arnard, her mother being a bay mare of good Hambletonian lineage. She was bought up in Ontario by Mr. Simpson simply as an investment, and may become the property of some traveling showmen or be exhibited in museums throughout the country. A year or so ago she was clipped by a former owner and travelled a mile in 2.35 on the ice, driven by a boy. In trotting she curls her tail up like a pug dog, so would hardly be an addition to any stable of stylish cobs or coach horses.—Rochester Union.

Lamps That Give Light Unto Feet.

Genius has given fashionable folks a new plaything with which to amuse themselves. It is in literal obedience to the Biblical injunction regarding a lamp unto the feet, for that is exactly where the new light is to be worn. It consists of a tiny lantern with sides of very stout glass, mounted upon a stirrup which straddles the foot of the user, a tongue resting on the toe of the foot, and acting as a part of the support.

There are several means of furnishing light for this curious lamp. Electricity and oil are the most common. The former is likely to be the most popular method from the fact that there is no danger of grease leaking out upon the shoe. A tiny storage battery has been constructed to be used in furnishing the light. It is ordinarily carried in the pocket, and a flexible wire, insulated and covered with chamois skin, passes from the battery and through the pocket down to the lamp.—Baltimore Herald.

Royal Sportsman.

The Archduke Francis Ferdinand is one of the crack shots of Europe. He prefers to shoot with smokeless powder, and handles his weapon very rapidly and with an extremely accurate aim. The Austrian heir presumptive is recently credited with having killed over 480 head of game in an hour and a half. To perform this great feat he kept three loaders constantly employed.

Elephant Obituary.

Jeannette, the oldest elephant in the country, died at Wallace's circus quarters, Peru, Ind. She was the only female African elephant in captivity. She was brought over more than seventy-five years ago, and has been with many circuses.—Chicago Chronicle.

A Fair Exchange.

In the year 1895 Switzerland had 2,688,104 native inhabitants and 290,000 resident foreigners, while 290,000 Swiss were living in other countries.

A Papuan Feast.

According to a recent visitor to the island of Papua, the basis of exchange there is arrack, or Java rum, one-half gallon of which is reckoned equal to one day's work at fishing or rattan cutting. No money is used. "When this nectar of the Papuan enters a home, every occupation is dropped and the family devotes all its attention with enthusiastic energy to its consumption. Their efforts never flag while the rum lasts or strength remains. The resulting stupefaction lasts for days, but on recovery the family cheerfully proceeds by persevering industry to acquire the means of procuring more." Arrack, we learn from the same authority, is without a rival as "the most villanous intoxicant known," and its only competitor in the affections of the Papuan is roast wild pig. Together, they are said to be to the Papuan simply irresistible.—Westminster Gazette.

From the Statistic Fiend.

The fad for collecting ridiculous statistics seems to be growing. The statistic fiend has discovered how much time a man wastes in his life crawling under the dressing-table in search of a lost collar-stud; and he can tell us exactly how many years we waste for the purpose of eating; then, again, how many tons of bread, meat or potatoes we may have eaten in these wasted years.

Now a reader, who lives in Glasgow, has written to inform me that, after several weeks of laborious calculation he has discovered that one ton and some odd pounds is worn off the boots of the London public every day. This material, if restored to its proper condition, would be sufficient to form a leather strap an inch wide and ten miles long and, with one year's accumulation, would reach from London to New York.—Answers.

In His Own Bear Trap.

Abraham Westerhouse, an old hunter, known all through the Pine Creek district, of Pennsylvania, a few days ago was rescued by a party of deer hunters in the Black Forest, more dead than alive, after having been imprisoned in a bear trap for over five days, with nothing to eat, except a sheep's head.

Westerhouse left his home, near Slate Run, taking an ax, auger and sheep's head with him. Going into the Black Forest, he built a bear trap, set it and placed heavy stones on the lid, crawling in to tie the sheep's head as bait. The lid sprung, leaving him imprisoned. He tried to free himself, but all efforts were futile.

The rescuers came across the trap by chance, and Westerhouse's cries caused the discovery. He will recover.—New York Press.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer thinks it would be a good idea to follow up the arbitration treaty between England and the United States with others between Spain and Cuba, Turkey and Armenia, Germany and France.

A Solid Basis.

Gold is a solid basis of financial transaction, and for business that's the best thing for us. It is so in the physical conditions. If by some carelessness or exposure to sudden cold the muscles of the back are contracted and stiffened, we have at once lumbago, or lame back, sometimes called "crick in the back," which is disabling and unfits all who have it for any activity. Now, to get back to a solid basis of health and strength, St. Jacobs Oil should at once be used to relax the twisted muscles and restore to their natural condition. It takes but a short time to perform the cure and the cure is certain. The back is then on a solid basis for strength and work, and nothing will bring about the change like this great remedy for pain.

Boston is to have a grand spectacular whist party, made up of 3200 players.

Thought the Punishment Ample.

United States officers of Salem, Portland, in Oregon, did not relish a recent duty they were called upon to perform, involving the arrest of a young woman of Salem who had sent out a man dressed in woman's clothes to meet a man who had written to her mother to meet him. The daughter had instructed her emissary to thrash the fellow who was trying to [illegible]ther to meet him, and the [illegible]as done. The man who [illegible]entered complaint against [illegible] The opinion of the officers as [illegible]s that he should have "taken his medicine."

Experiments in Florida and southern Georgia make it clear that tobacco equal to the growth in Cuba can be produced on American soil.