LEARNED OF LITTERATEURS.

Robert Harborough Sherard, author of "Twenty Years in Paris," tells that Guy de Maupassant despised literature as a profession, and gave to almost any other topic of conversation the preference over books.

Fanny Y. Cory, one of the foremost American illustrators of child life, lives near Helena, Mont., and she describes her home as "just a little yellow and white dot on the shore of a big open lake, where a few water fowl and the postman twice a week are about the only visitors."

Sir Theodore Martin is 90 years old, but is nevertheless about to bring out a book. Entitled "Monographs," it will contain biographical sketches of Garrick, Macready, Rachel and Baron Stockmar. These sketches are based on articles published in periodicals many years ago.

Marion Crawford, Count Soderini and Prof. Clementi are at work on a life of Pope Leo XIII. to fill four volumes. They possess a great many unpublished documents which Leo himself gave to Count Soderini for this purpose. It is said that the work will put an altogether different face on the relation of the last two popes to the question of Italian unity."

Thomas Hardy, the novelist, recluse and genius, lives on the outskirts of Dorchester in a red brick house surrounded by tall trees that hide his house from the curious. He dresses as simply and independently of fashion as most men of genius have done from the beginning of history. His pet aversion is the wearing of an overcoat and when the weather begins to be cold he puts on a waistcoat made of sheepskin in the old-fashioned country style.

CHURCH CELEBRITIES.

A lectern of carved wood is to be placed in the new All Saints' church, Appleton, as a memorial to Amos Adams Lawrence, of Boston, founder of Lawrence university, in Appleton, Wis.

Ex-Representative H. Kirke Portet, who represented Pittsburg in the last congress, will make a tour of the world to raise $1,500,000 for Baptist missions. This money will be used to endow schools in foreign lands.

Rev. P. Bonvin, S. J., the eminent musician of Canisius college, Buffalo, has written a new mass, the manuscript of which was submitted to Rome for approval, and at once received the imprimatur of the committee of cardinals having the matter in charge.

Rev. Dr. William S. Rainsford, widely known as the "strenuous parson," who has been successful in building up a large institutional church work in New York, has resigned the rectorship of St. George's Episcopal church, in Stuyvesant square, on the ground if ill health.

Rev. Robert Harley is the only Congregational minister who is a member of that famous London club, the Athenaeum, and he is also a F. R. S. It is curious to reflect that whereas he has made a world wide reputation as a mathematician he showed but little aptitude for mathematics as a boy, and was 14 before he really knew his multiplication table.

BOYS SHOULD NOT—

Laugh at the suggestions made by the man over you.

Attempt to put a wrong construction on a girl's words.

Imagine assurance will supply the place of knowledge.

Sneer at those who are trying to give you good advice.

Refuse to try an experiment because you think it has no merit.

Refuse to explain honestly why you fail to keep your appointment.

Think it makes you appear large to belittle the ability of others.

Speak slightingly of the man who wants to curb your enthusiasm.

Write a letter in a way that an expert is required to decipher it.

Spend your cash recklessly with the idea of deceiving those around you.

FARM AND GARDEN

GOOD LAND LEVELER.

How to Arrange a Pole Drag Which Will Pulverize the Soil Satisfactorily.

For many seasons I have found a pole drag, such as shown herwith, to be very useful in leveling and pulverizing the soil, writes a Michigan correspondent of the Farm and Home. The sketch shows the arrangement

SOIL PULVERIZER AND LEVELER.

which consists of three hardwood poles six inches in diameter and eight feet long. The poles are fastened together about one foot apart by means of short pieces of chain. A board is bolted to the front piece and allowed to extend beyond the third. To this board is fastened an old mowing machine seat which forms a comfortable place for the driver. The double-tree is attached to the front pole by a short chain.

POTATO SCAB.

Application of Corrosive Sublimate to Seed Will Prevent the Disease Appearing.

The effect of corrosive sublimate in preventing scab will be made plain when we understand the cause of scab to be a minute microscopic plant which penetrates the skin of the potato, lives on the substance of the tuber and matures its seed there. When scabby potatoes are planted without treatment, the seed of the fungus is also planted, and with the new crop of potatoes an increased crop of the fungus is produced, until the market value of the potatoes is almost destroyed. It has been found that a bath of the seed potatoes in a solution of corrosive sublimate kills the scab fungus, and if the soil has not had potatoes grown upon it recently, the new crop will be quite free from the disease. Take three ounces of corrosive sublimate and dissolve in ten gallons of water, using a barrel that you do not use for any other purpose for the solution. Put what seed potatoes this water will cover in a thin bag, and let them remain in the bath two hours. I have treated seed sufficient for two acres without renewing the strength, writes a correspondent of the Country Gentleman. We sometimes cut the potatoes before the bath, sometimes after, without any difference in results. Do not forget that corrosive sublimate is a poison. Keep the treated potatoes and the barrel containing the solution out of the reach of animals. I more than suspect that the rot fungus, if any adheres to the seed potatoes, is in large measure destroyed by this bath.

RETAINING THE HUMUS.

Exposure to Sun After Plowing or the Application of Lime Apt to Be Destructive of This Element.

What is known as humus in the soil is vegetable matter in the process of decay. Some of this vegetable matter decays in a few weeks, while others require several years to change their form. This mass of vegetable matter in the soil adds bulk to it, which bulk both helps to let in the air and to retain moisture. The decaying vegetable matter holds more moisture than the soil particles, and it has been shown that soil rich in humus has a larger per cent. of moisture at all times of the year than does soil out of which the humus has been exhausted. Humus is destroyed not only by this natural tendency to decay, but by its exposure to the sun, when it has been turned up by the plow. It is also destroyed by quicklime, which in doing so liberates the plant food. For this reason, says the Farmers' Review, the application of fresh lime to soil is frequently destructive in its results. The loss of humus in the soil weakens it in regard to its ability to resist drouth and to produce crops.

BELIEVER IN DEEP PLOWING

What a Missouri Farmer Thinks Are the Benefits to Be Derived by the Method.

I believe in deep plowing, writes a Missouri farmer, because it will deepen the soil and soil reservoir which holds the moisture. In the country where the soil is shallow I like to plow a little deeper each year, and in so doing I will gradually increase the depth of the soil. The furrow slice should be turned so that the harrow or the implement which follows can do the work after plowing. The surface of the field should be left in a corrugated form so that harrow or cutter can get hold to do the work. The furrow slice must not stand on the end or be turned flat. Another important point is to not plow when too wet, for it will greatly injure the soil and the ground will be harder to work afterwards. Don't get in too much of a hurry for it never pays to plow ground when it is too wet.

AN UNLUCKY THIRTEEN.

They Were All Creditors and Not One Ever Got a Cent Due Them.

"Did you ever sit down at a table where there were just 13?" asked a man of his companion in a railway carriage.

"Once," replied the latter.

"Well, you never observed that any bad luck followed it, did you?"

"Why, yes. Bad luck for most of the 13."

"Any of them die?"

"Not that I know of. Never heard of any of them dying."

"Not enough victuals to go round?" queried the other.

"Who's talking about victuals? There wasn't any victuals."

"Thought you said you sat down to a table where there were 13 persons.

"That's what I said. The table was in a lawyer's office. It was a meeting of my creditors. There were 12 of them. I was the other man."

There was a long pause, and then the first speaker inquired:

"In what way did the meeting prove unlucky, may I ask?"

"None of them ever got a cent from me," answered the other, heaving a deep sigh as he left the carriage.

Substantial Reason.

The Father—But why do you want to go halfway across the continent to attend college when we have one just as good right here at home?

The Son—I cannot tell a lie, father. I don't like the yell of our home institution.—Chicago Daily News.

The man who jumps at conclusions lands with a jar.

Another's.

Elderly Man (greeting former acquaintance)—I remember your face perfectly, miss, but your name has escaped me.

The Young Woman—I don't wonder. It escaped me three years ago. I am married now.—Chicago Tribune.

"If it took a man as long to git into debt," said Uncle Eben, "as it does to git out, dar wouldn' be nigh so much financial worriment."—Washington Star.

Some men chloroform their conscience and then flatter themselves that they are doing right because they feel no remorse.

INDIAN PROVERBS.

The coward shoots with shut eyes.

Small things talk loud to the Indian's eye.

No Indian ever sold his daughter for a name.

When a fox walks lame old rabbit jumps.

The paleface's arm is longer than his word.

A squaw's tongue runs faster than the wind's legs.

There is nothing so eloquent as a rattlesnake's tail.

The Indian scalps his enemy; the paleface skins his friends.

There will be hungry palefaces so long as there is any Indian land to swallow.

When a man prays one day and steals six, the Great Spirit thunders and the evil one laughs.

There are three things it takes a strong man to hold: A young warrior, a wild horse and a handsome squaw.

No More for Him.

Tomson—I picked up some wonderful antiques while I was in Europe. I'm going to speak to old Priceless about them.

Johns—Don't! He married one while you were abroad, and got awfully sold. He's sour on antiques!"—Detroit Free Press.