FARM NOTES.

-Weeds and other refuse left in the fence corners last fall should be carefully cleaned away before spring. They can be easily raked out, as they are now dry, and the best way to dispose of such material is

-Manure may fail to give good results the first year and show well the next. Much depends on the condition of the ma-terial. It cannot afford food to plants un-til it decomposes and its soluble material can be appropriated.

-The busiest men are usually the happiest, although this rule also has its exceptions. When one man has so many demands upon his time that nothing can be done right, his content is apt to degenerate

next spring. The best mulch for strawberries is fine, well rotted manure. It not only serves to protect the vines, but supplies the ready food early in the spring.

-The best remedy for lice in poultry houses is to add a pound of concentrated lye to a wash boiler of soap suds and to apply the suds hot on the walls, floors and roofs of the houses. All lice with their nits, will thus be destroyed surely and quickly.

-- The flavor of milk is not always due to the food. On hundreds of farms there is their games by the youths and maidens, an utter lack of cleanliness in the handling and finally even the elders come under the of milk, although it is well known that sickness and death are caused by the germs which enter into the milk through lack of cleanliness in milking and carelessness in

-Keep only the old geese for breeding purposes, sending the younger ones to mar-ket. Old geese are not readily salable, and are more valuable in caring for their young when three or four years old than before. They begin to lay in March and April, and should be given warm quarters from now until spring. Geese pay well if cared for, and cost but little, as they prefer to forage for themselves.

-A crack in the wall, or a knot hole, may receive but little consideration, yet a cold draught from such a source may be injurious to an animal. When a cow shrinks in the yield of her milk in winter, while other cows are yielding up to the average, it indicates that something is wrong, and, unless the quarters are free from draughts, the farmer will pay a penalty for negligence.

-The winter is the time to clean up the farm. On some farms the waste water is thrown near the house; dead grass and weeds accumulate, and filth in various forms exists. Cold weather bides many disagreeable things, for then there are no odors, but the filth remains, however, and decay begins with the warm weather and spring. Every farm needs a good cleaning up at least once a year.

-No one who has tried raising and feeding turnips to sheep can have a full appreciation of the benefits derived from this cheap food and in the increased thrift of their stock. There can be no doubt of the advantage of the English method of feeding compared with ours, if we compare their immense fat muttous with ours, and in all the feeding districts of the English provinces turnips are fed in immense quanti-

-If butter is a specialty on the farm the the winter season the feeding of skim milk and buttermilk to pigs is the best and cheapest mode of making pork. With a clover patch for the pigs to occupy in summer and a mess of bran and buttermilk at night, they will grow rapidly without any other food. If pigs are confined in pens they should have the grass cut and thrown into the pens, as they should have some kind of bulky food.

-Numbers of trees with good roots, and planted, die after removal simply from a weakened constitution brought about by poor living. It has always been under stood that in this country a transplanted tree is safer for being pruned, but the pruning generally consisted of shortening in all the branches, strong as well as weak, but some friut growers maintain that the tree should not be shortened in, but merely thinned out, all the weaker branches being out out and the strong ones left. It is not pos-ible to pound the earth too tight about a transplanted tree, nor to avoid all risks in transplanting. The art will never be so perfect that some will not die.

—The mineral that the potato crop mostly exhausts from the soil is potash, and this is mainly found in the top. The tubers have a large proportion of water, and their matter is mostly starch, much, if not all, of which is taken from the air through the leaves. If potato crops are covered lightly, so as to prevent them from blowing away in the winter, most of their substance will be washed away into the soil before spring. Anyone who has pitted potatoes in the fall, covering with potato tops, will find in the spring that the spot has been enriched. This does not entirely come from the potato crops, for the earthing up around the pit deepens the soil. Repeated freezing and thawing make it more soluble. The potash in the earthing up around the pit deepens the soil. in the potato crops, being set free, may also contribute to the same result.

-Before venturing on changing the character of the flock by improvement the nature of the pasture and the habits of the sheep must be considered. Frequeut experiments have demonstrated that where the farms are near enough to easily transport sheep the carcass is most valuable, and the Southdown breed has proved more acceptable for crossing for that purpose than other breeds. But there are sections that find great profit, at less cost, by shipping wool instead of mutton, for less space is required, no loss is incurred by accident, and the freight is cheaper. It is in such places that the Meriuo is most valuable. Being a small, active, hardy sheep, it can subsist on partially inferior pastures, and seems to be adapted to anything and anywhere that suits the common kinds. The first cross of the Merino nearly doubles the yield of the wool the first trial, and if the Merino rams are annually used afterward the improvement will be one of the best for wool that can be made. It is not a costly experiment to try the Merino, for, although high prices are obtained for choice rams, there are hunare obtained for choice rams, there are hundreds sold at moderate prices which answer well for the purpose of the farmer. There is no "best cross" for sheep. All breeders answer for special purposes; and every farmer should consider the quality of his pasture, his distance from market, and all other conditions which may guide him in selecting the "hest" for his purpose.

Some of the Frolics Indulged in by Children. Origin of Blindman's Buff. Blindman's Wand, Which Comes from the Germans, Less Familiar.

Three-Leaged Race and the Sack Race. Some of the dear old romping Christmas games that have contributed to the joy of childhood through many generations are described by a writer in Country Life in

Blindman's buff is, of course, one of those -anciently called "hoodman blind," from the fact that at first the blind man the loose coat of the period, with a hood like a monk's cowl, which was drawn over the head far enough to cover the eyes.

BLINDMAN'S WAND.

Blindman's wand may not be so familiar. It comes to us from the Germans. The players form a circle holding hands, and one is placed in the middle, blindfolded, and a wand or cane is given him. The rest dance around him, singing some popular chorus. Suddenly the musical accompaniment stops and all in the circle stand perfectly still, loosing hands. The blindman then reaches out his wand, and the person to whom he points holds its The vigorous strawberry plants are the ones that will produce the largest berries sound of some animal, which must be sound of some animal, which must be echoed by the other holder of the wand, disguising his voice that the identity may not be discovered. This test may be thrice repeated, changing the cry or roar each time. The blind man, if still mystified, may pass the wand over the person under consideration, touching him here and there,

while he crouches or stands on tiptoe to deceive the blind man about his height. The name of the person must be given, who, when detected, must change places with the blind man. The children are usually soon joined in

spell of Christmas and frolic with the best. THREE-LEGGED RACE. Some of the energetic youngsters may care to try a three-legged race. Four con-testants submit to be tied together in couples, the right leg of one firmly strapped to the left leg of his companion just below the knee and at the ankle. They are carried or dragged to the starting place, and some one counts the time-honored formula. "One, two, three—go?" At the word "Go!" they start, or try to go; sometimes coming down upon their knees or falling ignominiously flat, to be helped up, amid the cheers of their sympathizers or howls of derision. The two who are able to hold out the longest win the game, and are pre sented with a burlesque prize.

SACK RACE. A sack race is very amusing. Stout bags of burlap must be provided, large enough to incase the legs of the contestants up to the waist, and if the whole person is covered to the chin the test will be the more amusing. Any number may enter the lists, and start together at a given signal. They fare onward by a series of leaps, and if they roll over-a frequent experiencethey must contrive to pick themselves up, or lie on the ground in hopeless defeat. The one who is still on his legs when all others are worsted wins the race

Sounded the Same

Mrs. Thump-Hardie-"Did you ask Mrs. Nextdoor if my piano playing disturbed her haby?"

to you fer playing so much."

Mrs. Thump-Hardie—"Did she, really?" Servant—"Yes, mum. She said it saved her the trouble of pounding' on a tin pan."

Judge Sent to an Asylum.

John B. Livingston, President of Lancaster Courts

John B. Livingston. President Judge of the Laucaster county courts, has been taken to the Burn Brae Sanitarium, in Delaware county. He is in the first year of his fourth term as judge, and has been in bad health since May, 1901. His hallucination is marriage with a prominent young woman. He is about 82 years old.

His mental condition will be certified to by the Governor, and the probability is that Judge Livingston will be retired on half-

Already successors have been named. The most prominent are Walter M. Frank-lin and Aaron B. Hassler.

-Rev. John Z. Lloyd, a superannuated minister of the Central Pennsylvania M. E. conference, died at his home, in Swedesboro, N. J., last Monday evening, aged 95 years. He was born in Epworth, England; was a man of considerable means, and gave largely to the benevolent institu-tions of the Methodist church.

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