FARMERS' COLUMN.

ECONOMIZING FUEL. — One of the great objections to ordinary fire-places is that too much of the heat goes up the chimney, and innumerable have been the attempts to obviate that loss. Register stoves have been invented, and various contrivances adapted to regulating the draught and reducing the size of the flue. One method proposed was to light the fire on the top, and, after the first few minutes, as the heat spread downward, all the smoke passing through the upper incandescent layer was consumed, and so much the more heat saved, but the moment the fire had to be made up again, all the advantages were lost. One of the latest suggestions to prevent the waste of heat was to form the bottom of the grate of an iron plate instead of bars. An improvement on that plan is a patent coal-economizer, which has a hollow pierced cylinder rising from the middle of the plate. The air entering the cylinder from below the grate is thus conveyed at each pole the centre of the fire, and the heat, instead of rushing up the chimney in undue quantity, is diffused into the room, and coal is economized. The perfection of combustion is achieved when, instead of feeding the cylinder with the vitiated air of the room, it is supplied by a pipe communicating with the external air. And further, we are informed that if camphor or any other disinfectant is hung on the cylinder, the scent is driven into every corner of the apartment. So that a room may be perfumed, disinfected or ventilated by this contrivance when properly managed.

SOWING WHEAT.—A very important point in sowing or drilling winter grain is to cover the seed as little as possible to ensure sprouting. The old-fashioned idea that deep covering will prevent the plant from being thrown out by winter's frost is or ought to be exploded. The frost always penetrates much deeper than the roots. We cannot prevent the soil from being alternately lifted and dropped as it expands or contracts. All we can do is to get the roots in the best position to withstand injury, and this is done by having them spread horizontally not very far below the surface. A tap-root on the wheat plant in the fall is worse than useless. It is sure to be snapped by the lifting up of the soil, and with it all the fibrous roots below. If we can spread the roots from the crown on either side, the plant and earth will be raised together with little injury to the roots. This is the reason why we want a compact seed-bed for wheat. It forces the growth of roots laterally instead of downward. With a good growth of top falling over these lateral roots, the wheat plant is as well prepared for winter as is possible. The usual fault in drilling is in getting the seed too deep. On soft musky soil this is almost inevitable, as the drill wheels sink below the surface and increase the depth at which the tubes deposit the seed. Using the roller once or twice if necessary to compact the soil, will remove this difficulty. —[American Farmer.

DIVIDING STOCKS.—Many of our friends are desirous of knowing our process of artificial swarming, which is as follows: First, we use a movable comb hive; then take an empty hive—we will call it No. 1—go to No. 2, blow a little smoke in the entrance of said hive, open the hive, draw a frame from or near the centre of the hive, bees and all, place it in No. 1, and replace in No. 2 the empty frame taken from No. 1; now pass to No. 3, smoke a little, draw a frame, as before, place it in No. 1, and replace with empty frame, going from hive to hive until you get sufficient for the new stock, being careful that you do not take the queen from any hive. In case of very strong stocks, you can draw two frames to prevent swarming. Now remove your new-made stock to a distance from the hives you have drawn from, sprinkle sweetened water or diluted honey, and shut them up for from two to six hours. The best time is about four o'clock. Then open the entrance before going to bed. This is a plan which has long been practised by experienced aparians, and does not seem to retard the gathering of honey. Another, and I think a safer plan for inexperienced persons, is to divide your strong stocks equally, or nearly so, carefully looking for the queen, to a new location leaving the queenless hive on the old stand. This is a branch of business that any woman can understand and attend to, being healthful, pleasant and profitable.—Practical Farmer.

TRANSFERRING BEES.—Alarm the bees with a little smoke, reverse the hive under a tree, or near a fence; have a heavy blanket, I think a soldier's blanket best; fasten a ring, ten or twelve inches in diameter, in the center, to hang it up and carry it by. It can be hung up to the limb of a tree, or to a pole or rail, with one end put across the fence. Drum a little and raise the blanket on one side. Split or pry off one side of the hive; cut out the comb; transfer to the frame by using a transfer-board a little larger than the frame; fasten the comb in, by using an awl; if the combs are empty; but if heavy with honey and brood, tack a few strips of thin wood across the frame cornerwise; remove the strips when the bees have fastened the combs. Take hold of the strap of the blanket; carry the bees to the hive, placed where you want it to stand, and let the blanket down; raise one side; turn it upside down; the bees will then crawl into the hive. I have transferred hundreds of swarms and dispensed with the drum box altogether; the blanket adjusts itself to any size of box or gum.—[Letter to American Bee Journal.

RUSTIC FLOWER POTS.—Last season I had a pretty arrangement in my front yard which was much admired. When the winter's wood was hauled to the house, there were some hollow logs among it. These were sawed off about eighteen inches long; the decayed wood from the inside was scraped out, and the space filled with rich earth and manure; in the center I had a rose bush, and next, those pinks; on the outer edge I set slips of Ivy and Wandering Jew; in one I raised some sweet peas. The plants all grew nicely, and they were certainly beautiful ornaments; a source of pleasure to myself, and admiration to passers-by. These little arrangements are but trifling, but anything that makes home pleasant and enjoyable is worth seeing about and trying for; and trifles add much either to our happiness or discomfort all through life.—Letter to Rural Home.

EYE LOTIONS.—(1) One of the best liquids is a very diluted solution of sulphate of copper, or acetate of lead. (2) Sulphate of zinc, six or eight grains; sulphate of morphine, two grains; glycerine, two teaspoonfuls; water, four tablespoonfuls. Drop two or three drops into the eye night and morning, and bathe the lids frequently. For styes, pull out the eye-lash in its centre, and touch the stye very carefully with lunar caustic moistened. At bedtime apply bread and milk.—Various Sources.

—The artfulness of women is increasing. They even have designs on pottery.

LETTER FROM PIT KNOKWORSHD.

Weitnotfilitz, der 8 Dec., 1878.

MR. DEUKER.—Ich hob g'denkt, ich mist aw emol eppes fun uns hara lusa, so dos ich uff de Royal net gons fargest ga. In fact ich hob g'muss shuff'st het de Royal mer ains hinanei gakick't aw's ich de same maning kot het we ich mit em kup im mushkesel war. Un selamols hob ich g'maint dos de Oshdara un de Pingshda wara uf a dawg. Mit em kup im mushkesel! Yaw mit em kup im mushkesel bis iw'r de ora. Un we des kum'a is, wil ich do schreiwa: My fraw de Royal hut mer ne niks recht mocha un ne g'nunk du kena im house. So bin ich don amol wid'r ham kuma a owet un hob mechtich g'roared. Doo mei leb'r mon, sei duch net bas! sawgt de Royal, morya wela mer mol des ding onarsht mocha; ich ga mit em knecht in's hoifeld un du bleib'st d'hame un shoft de erwet.

Fre om onera morya nem't de Royal d' sens uf de shulter un ga't mit em knecht in's hoifeld, ich ow'r wardshoft'a d'hame we'n orm'r sind'r. 'Sarsht hob ich o'fonga buder zu draa; ols ich ow'r a wile g'draat hob, bin ich dorshtig wor'a un ga in der kel'r for en glos wei zu zopa, dewile ich om wei zopa wor, har ich, dos unser sou owa in der kich rum loft. Ich bin doper mit em zopa in der hond de kelardrep nuf, dos de sou dos buderfos net umshmeisa dada. Ow'r ich wor zu shpat, de sou hut's buterfos shun umkhsmisa kot un mit em kup im fos sich den rawm buly schmecka losa, des hut mich so ferzernt, dos ich's weifos fergesa hob, un ous leib's grefta uf de sou los khschloga hob. We de sou dorch de dar entwitcha hut wula, hob ich 'r an's uf der shwons geva dosse uf dar shtel li'a is bleba. Now is mere's nerhst ei kfola, dos ich dan zopa in dar hond hob; doper ga ich wid'r in dar kelar, so wor doch oles ous em fos galufa. Endlich folt mer's bei dos dar bui noch im shtol wer un het hite noch ken fut'r, noch wos'r kot, obkleich es doch shun elf oor war. Ow'r doch wor mer's zu wite, en in de wate zu doo; leber wolt ich en uf's doch fera, wu, we de menhsta bou'r heiser in uns'r gagend, en ponakucha—doch hen. Un uf 'm doch woks't sha hoch kraws, so hob ich my mind uf gamocht for dar bull in'r a hury uf's doch zu driwa, un sich sot fresa lusa de wile ich's esa mocha date. S'hous leid dicht om berg, so dos ich gor ken druwel kot hob for d'r bull nuf zu bringa, in dem ich bord iwer de gla spawlta zhwisa dem berg un dem doch lachta. Es wor now bol midog un wile ich ken buter kot hob, so bin ich ons mush kocha. We don d'r bull kliklich uf 'm doch wor, hob ich en kesel mit milch iwar's fei'r. Iwer ol dem folt mer's ei, dos d'r bull fum doch fola kent un sich wa du; des'nd waga bin ich wed'r uf's doch, for en ow zu bina. A end fum shdrik hob ich em bull um den hols g'buna un's on'r end hob ich den shornshta nunar henka lusa; don bin ich wid'r in de kich, un do hut de milch shun g'kocht so hob ich mich g'dumelt for khswint dar mush awrera, don sa'n ich dos mei shdrump iwar dar shoo nun'r hank't so wol't ich 'sarsht mei shdrump bina, un in dar hury hob ich m'r des end fum shdrick wu dar shornshta run'r konk'a hut um's ba g'buna, mit d'r maning dos 's wa'r dar shdrumpbendal. D'wile ich don bisy war om mush kocha, folt dar bull fum doch un zeg't d'r shdrik mit m'r d'r shornshta nuf, dar bull hot ouswenich om hous 'kswisha ard un himel konk'a ken's fun un's hut os kum'a kena. Ich net, un dar bull net. De Royal hut ols gawort dos ich sut rufa for midog, aw'r olles bleibt shdil. S'letcht we's se mol so hunkerich war is se so kuma un'a g'rufa. We se on's hous kuma is un hut dar bull sana henka hut se dar shdrick dorch kshnita, un ich tun in 'a 'wenich d'r shornshta nun'r kfola mit em kup'in dar mushkesel. Fun sel'r zite aw les ich de fraw era erwet shof'a un interfere nima d'mit, ow'r ich kleich awe dar mush'nim'a. D'r Royal hob ich fersprecha misa dos ich de gons story in da zeiting du wot, un won net dut se mich garshta-buckla un mich ferlusa same we nei onera weib'r. D'rum huf ich du wherst mer d'r k'fola du.

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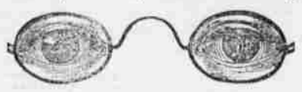

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