

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

Fichus.
The fichu is a very conspicuous feature in summer toilets, and appears in various ways. Sometimes it is made of the dress material, and forms the drapey on the bosom; when made of white muslin, and very small, it takes the place of a collar or frill; again, the large shawl-shaped fichu of white lace and mull are used to complete watering-pot toilets; and the fichu-mante of black lace, Surah, or camel's-hair is the fashionable wrap for city streets or drives. The fichu as part of the dress trimming is especially pretty on thin muslin, grenadine, or light silk dresses. For such purposes it is made of four folds of the material cut bias, and edged at the top and bottom with a narrow plaiting, or else a ruffle of the goods taken double. This passes around the back of the neck, and extends down the fronts as far as the top of the darts, where it is rounded off, or else it may be lengthened so that the ends will be concealed under the belt. A ruffle of lace or a linen collar is worn around the neck. Very small fichu of white soft mull are made with a point behind, are turned over at the top, and rounded in front; they are then edged with lace two inches wide, and this lace is also put on the upper part, which is turned down, thus making two rows in the back. When completed this fichu is scarcely larger than a lady's pocket-handkerchief folded triangularly and is worn close and high about the throat, dispensing with the warm linen collar or the full ruff of lace. It is cool and pleasant for summer wear, and is very dainty. Ladies who make braid laces, and who do fanciful patterns of tatting, make this small fichu without muslin, and entirely of the tatting or lace. The shawl-shaped muslin fichu are large enough to reach nearly to the elbows, are quite straight and close-fitting across the back, and have ends loosely tied in front. They are shaped by a seam in the back, where a sloped piece is set in. The upper part of the fichu is turned down very broadly and when trimmed with wide lace it meets the row of lace on the lower edge. This is the prettiest wrap for wearing with white dresses and the white gypsy hats that are now trimmed with muslin and lace.

White silk-muslin fichus are made to use instead of laces with dressy toilets, and are trimmed with embroidery of white silk done on the muslin. New black fichu, to be worn in the same way, are of transparent square meshes, like those of grenadine, and are brightened by being elaborately wrought with iridescent beads and gold threads. The Spanish lace fichu are popularly worn both in black and white laces and in the small sizes like mere collarettes, as well as the large mantillas.—*Basor.*

Fashion Notes.

- Spanish lace is very much worn.
- Bead collars increase in popularity.
- Japanese pongee is a summer novelty.
- Children continue to wear single-piece dresses.
- Soft silk sashes are finished at the ends with tassels.
- Cheese cloth dresses are worn again this summer.
- Parisian dressmakers combine cotton goods with silk.
- Heavy box-plaited flounces to the knee are much worn.
- Ragusa lace is a machine made imitation of antique point.
- Trousers under the skirt are universally worn by equestriennes.
- White foulards with black polka dots make very stylish toilets.
- Silk fans with long ivory handles and flat borders of feathers are cheap this summer.
- Grenadine dresses often have the front breadths entirely covered with flounces of French lace.
- Cheap satin is the best material for trimming cheap woollen suits. It is not so likely to fade as silk.
- Bead embroidery on black net is used to trim kid waists, or else satin pipings and cascades of lace.
- The Black Forest bows of black silk, which supersede the Aisatian, are especially becoming to fair-haired girls.
- Shirring is more used than at any previous season for the front of dress skirts, but is now shirred horizontally in wide clusters instead of lengthwise, as it was formerly.
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- The Marriages of Great Men.**
- Shakespeare loved and wedded a farmer's daughter.
- Humboldt married a poor girl because he loved her. Of course they were happy.
- Robert Burns married a poor farm girl, with whom he fell in love while they worked on a farm together.
- Peter the Great, of Russia, married a peasant. She made him an excellent wife and a sagacious empress.
- John Adams married a daughter of a Presbyterian clergyman. Her father objected on account of John being a lawyer.
- Andrew Jackson married a woman whose husband was still living. She was an amiable woman, and was most devotedly attached to the old warrior and statesman.
- Washington married a widow with two children. It is enough to say she was worthy of him; and they lived as married people should live, in perfect harmony with each other.
- Prince Albert and Queen Victoria were cousins, a rare example in the long line of English monarchs, wherein the marital vows were sacredly observed and sincere affection existed.

News and Notes for Women.

- Queen Victoria is said to have a strong personal liking for Lord Beaconsfield.
- Mrs. A. H. H. Stuart is president of the board of emigration of Washington Territory.
- Mrs. Julia Atzroth, of Florida, has

raised the first coffee bush in the open air in this country, so far as known.
Sarah Bernhardt, the celebrated French actress, who is coming to America this fall, is over thirty.
Mrs. Mary Wheatland, of Bersted, England, earns her own living as an supports her family as a bathing attendant, and in that capacity has saved thirteen lives during the past twenty years.

Warm Weather Diet.

The first warm days are fruitful of complaints about the failure of appetite. Breakfasts are no longer relished; dinners afford but a languid interest, and suppers seem superfluous. Only vigorous workers out of doors, or young people who are so blessed as yet to have made the acquaintance of their stomachs, come to the table with a real zest for food. And it is no wonder, considering how few people have yet learned the art of conditioning the state of the season. The spring appetite is the one that fails, before ham and eggs or a great piece of steak, on these enervating first warm mornings of the year. Rich soups, heavy meats and all stimulating and blood making articles of diet, that met a real want in the nipping and eager air of winter, are as much out of place now as the furs and usters. And yet many a person who would think it a sign of lunacy to dress in the December style, may, does not appear to see any incongruity in eating in the December fashion. Food and coal create heat, and thick clothing and tight shoes preserve it for the comfort of the body in winter. Yet men who know enough to dump their umbrellas, open the windows and lay off their overcoats on the advent of spring, are stupid enough to keep on stoking their stomach at full blast and consider themselves "out-of-sorts" and ill if nature resents the abuse.

It is time to let up on the cold weather diet—especially for persons doomed to live indoors. A mold of well-cooked oatmeal, served cold with cream and sugar, with two or three oranges and a cup of coffee, makes an adequate and appetizing breakfast. All fruits and vegetables attainable fit in well at this season. The many preparations of the small grains afford a variety which it is well to study. Milk and eggs and fish contain all the needed food-elements for a diet of a month or two, with such sugar and starch as the housewife combines in toothsome light puddings or other desserts. Whether we eat to live or live to eat, we ought to be rational enough to dispense with food when not hungry and to tempt rather than force the appetite.—*G. de la Rue.*

Keep Ahead.

One of the grand secrets of success in life is to keep ahead in all ways possible. If you once fall behind, it may be very difficult to make up the headway which is lost. One who begins with putting aside some part of his earnings, however small, and keeps it up for a number of years, is likely to benefit rich before he dies. One who inherits property, and goes on year by year spending a little more than his income, will become poor if he lives long enough. Living beyond their means has brought multitudes of persons to ruin in our generation. It is the cause of nine-tenths of all the defalcations which have disgraced the age. Bankers and business men in general do not often help themselves to other people's money until their own fund begins to fall off, and their expenditures exceed their receipts. A man who is in debt walks in the midst of perils. It cannot but impair a man's self-respect to know that he is living at the expense of others. It is also very desirable that we should keep somewhat ahead in our work. This may not be possible in all cases, as, for instance, when a man's work is assigned to certain fixed hours, like that of the operatives in a mill. But there are certain classes of people who can choose their time for the work which they are called to do, and amongst them there are some who invariably put off the task assigned them so long as possible, and then come to its performance hurried, perplexed, anxious, confused—in such a state of mind as certainly unfits them for doing their best work. Get ahead and keep ahead, and your success is tolerably sure.

Convinced.

The late Thomas Blanchard's invention of a machine for turning gunstocks was heartily ridiculed in the British parliament, when some members moved a resolution for purchasing a number of them, on the ground that Americans were surpassing the English in gun manufacture. One very incredulous member made so much opposition, declaring that the very idea of turning a gunstock was absurd, that the resolution was withdrawn, and a committee appointed to come to this country and look into the matter. They reported the facts to be as first stated, whereupon the incredulous member declared that the Americans might have got up something to work their soft woods, but it would never stand the test of hard wood. This gentleman was finally sent over to decide upon the merits of the machine. Selecting three roughstocks of the hardest, toughest timber he could find, he went to the Springfield armory in cognito, brought his stocks to the stocking room and inquired of the overseer if he would grant him the favor of turning them. Without making the least alteration of the machine the overseer ran the stocks through in a few minutes, and then went on with his work as though nothing had happened. The Englishman examined the stocks, and found they were turned all the better for being of hard wood. After musing awhile he frankly confessed who he was, why he came, and his thorough conviction of the utility of the machine. Before he left the city he gave an order in behalf of the British government for this and the accompanying machines, some six or eight, which amounted to \$40,000. The machines were built at Chicopee, shipped to England, and have been in use there from that day to this.—*New York Tribune.*

Bisset, the animal trainer of Pesth, Hungary, taught an orang to walk on tables, and perform other household duties belonging to servants. A chimpanzee has been trained to feed and attend a baker's oven fire on board ship. A female chimpanzee in the London Zoological gardens could lock and unlock a door or drawer and thread and needle. In taking her meals she used knife, fork, spoon and drinking cup with the same ease as a human being. The chacma baboon has been taught to blow bellows and to drive teams of horses.

FAMILY MEDICINE.

How Muscular Rheumatism Begins and How It May Be Cured.
Muscular rheumatism usually commences as an acute disease, but exhibits a decided tendency to become chronic. It may affect any of the muscles of the limbs or trunk, but is more likely to occur in certain situations than in others. The seizures are not uncommonly quite sudden—for example, the patient may find on awaking in the morning that he is unable to make a certain movement, or to perform some particular act, without experiencing the most exquisite pain. Usually there is no pain while the muscles of the part are quiet, but the slightest movement suffices to excite a paroxysm. On examining the seat of suffering nothing can be detected, but sometimes there is a slight tenderness on pressure. There is often a fever or constitutional disturbance—at all events at first; but as the complaint progresses there may be thirst, loss of appetite, and even considerable elevation of temperature, as the result of the long-continued pain and the want of sleep which it occasions. We know very little respecting the causes of muscular rheumatism. It is most commonly met with in people of full adult age, and not uncommonly in individuals of a gouty habit. Exposure to cold and damp, and the overuse of the affected part, may act as exciting causes. One attack of the disease renders a liability to its return. The duration of the complaint cannot be definitely fixed. As an acute disease it is usually of brief duration, but in the chronic forms it often proves very rebellious to treatment, and its duration may be protracted almost indefinitely.

LUMBAGO.

Muscular rheumatism is not confined to any particular region of the body, but may occur in almost any locality. The principal varieties are lumbago and crick in the neck, and we shall now speak of the treatment of lumbago. This is a rheumatic affection of the muscles of the loins, those on one or both sides being involved. It is frequently very sudden in its mode of onset, the pain seizing the patient "all of a moment." The pain is usually increased by every movement of the lower part of the spine, and by pressure upon the muscles of the affected part. It is not uncommon to see patients with lumbago leaning forward and winking almost double. If they are told to "touch their toes" they generally express their inability to do so, although in many cases it appears on investigation that the pain is caused not so much by bending down as by the effort to get up again. Sometimes, however, the mere effort of stooping is very painful.

The remedies for lumbago are, as might be supposed, chiefly local. There are, however, other methods of treatment which are often attended with satisfactory results. When the pain is very severe, relief may in the majority of cases, be obtained almost immediately by an injection of morphia under the skin. This is a fact which has been known to medical men and extensively employed for many years. The only objection that can be urged against it, is that in many people morphia gives rise to headache, giddiness and other unpleasant symptoms. Quite recently a French physician made a somewhat curious discovery. He had a patient whom he had frequently treated with hypodermic injections of morphia for acute attacks of lumbago, but always with the production of a train of unpleasant constitutional symptoms. One day the patient called to say how glad he was to find he had made some alteration in the medicine, for the last injection had relieved the pain as usual, but had not produced any headache or giddiness. The doctor at once declared that he had used the same morphia solution as usual, and in order to convince the patient, sent for the bottle to show him. On examination the bottle was found to contain nothing but water, and on inquiry being instituted the servant confessed that some days before she had accidentally upset the bottle and spilled the contents, and that fearing detection she had filled it with water. The doctor at once saw that the fact was of value, and hastened to publish the discovery to the world. It then appeared from the testimony of numerous trustworthy observers that even the water was not essential, that it was the puncture with the needle which did good, and that equal benefit might be obtained without the injection of any substance at all.

USE OF THE NEEDLE.

The treatment of lumbago by "acupuncture," as it is called, is attended with the most favorable results. We have seen cases in which the relief has been instantaneous. The mode of procedure is very simple. The patient stands upright, holding his shirt behind so as to expose the loins. The only apparatus required is a good, strong, sharp needle, such as is ordinarily used as a shawl-pin. The person who is about to perform the friendly office for the patient grasps the needle firmly in his hand, and suddenly thrusts it into the over the painful part. The pain of the puncture is but momentary, and the needle, instead of being withdrawn, may be advantageously left sticking in for a few minutes. When the lumbago is double, the operation should be performed on both sides of the loins. We have cured many cases of lumbago by this method, and have never known it to be followed with any unpleasant consequences. Most instrument makers keep needles fitted in bone handles for the performance of this operation, but the domestic substitute to which we have referred will answer equally well. The Turkish bash, which is such a valuable remedy for nearly all complaints of a rheumatic nature, may be used with advantage in lumbago. When a Turkish bath is not obtainable, an ordinary domestic linseed poultice may prove of service. In acute lumbago, poulticing often brings speedy relief, the severest cases being greatly benefited in a few hours, and generally cured in one or two days. The poultice must be very hot and large enough to cover the whole loins or the part affected, and thick enough to remain quite hot for at least half an hour, when it must be changed. Should no benefit be obtained, this treatment should be continued for three hours or longer, then the skin must be covered with a piece of flannel, which in its turn is covered with oil silk. This after-treatment, like that of poultices, promotes free perspiration, upon which mainly depends the efficacy of this plan. A diathermic (opposed) method of treatment, that of freezing the painful part, may sometimes be applied with advantage. Two parts of finely powdered ice, with one of common salt, are put in a gauze bag and placed

in contact with the skin until the sensation is abolished and it has a leathery feel and a shrunken, tallowy appearance. The application should not be continued for more than five or six minutes or it may cause a blister. One of the best and most convenient methods of freezing the part is by spraying upon it with ether, the evaporation of which produces intense cold. A single application of the ether spray will in many cases afford speedy relief in lumbago.

GALVANISM.

The use of galvanism is not uncommonly attended with the most satisfactory results, the passage of what is known as the "interrupted current" effecting a speedy cure. When electricity, the needle, or poultices fail to give more than slight temporary relief, it will often be found that the lumbago is accompanied by high fever, and that it is in reality the first symptom of an attack of acute rheumatism or some other febrile disease. The application of a good adhesive plaster over the loins will, by affording support to the parts, often give relief. Either this or a great plaster or the pitch plaster may be employed. It is desirable to have it spread on leather or some equally durable and substantial substance. In summer it is a good plan to have it punched all over with a number of little holes, to admit of the evaporation of the perspiration so as to avoid the troublesome itching which would be caused by its retention. Care should be taken to see that the plaster is smoothly and equally applied. An attack of lumbago, affecting perhaps the whole loins, often leaves behind it one painful spot which may cause discomfort when the body is moved in one direction. Remains of lumbago, of this general resist the usual methods of treatment, the pain being driven from one spot only to reappear at another. A large belladonna plaster will generally mitigate the complaint, should it fail to remove it altogether. Of the internal remedies, iodide of potassium and nitrate of potash (nitre) may prove useful under the conditions and in the doses referred to while speaking of chronic rheumatism. The former salt, however, not unfrequently fails to effect lumbago, even when the complaint is distinctly worse at night. It has been claimed for acetæ racemosa (cimicifuga) that it subdues lumbago more effectually than any other remedy. It will not work in trying in obstinate cases, but it must be admitted that it often fails. The dose is five drops of the tincture every two hours.

CRICK IN THE NECK.

Crick in the neck, stiff neck, or, to use the technical term, torticollis, is usually the result of a cold or of exposure of the affected part to a current of cold air. The pain is sometimes in the back of the neck, but more frequently it affects only one side, the patient being in the latter case compelled to hold his head awry in order to relax his muscles. A patient suffering from a stiff neck not uncommonly presents a somewhat comical appearance, and is often made the subject of much ridicule and joking, but for all that the complaint is a very painful one, and is sometimes very intractable to treatment. A stiff neck in children is not uncommonly the cause of a considerable elevation of temperature, the fever lasting three or four days or more. When the pain of acute torticollis is very great it may be necessary to endeavor to obtain relief by the administration of a hypodermic injection of morphia. Local applications, however, not unfrequently prove successful. Hot fomentations are very valuable, as, for example, a piece of spongiopline wrung out of hot water and applied either alone or sprinkled with laudanum, or belladonna liniment, or a combination of the two. Turpentine often proves useful in these cases. Over a flannel wrung out of hot water a little turpentine should be spread and applied till it produces redness, tingling and smarting. It is well to bear in mind that as the smarting arising from the turpentine wears off, augmenting for some time after its removal, the application should be kept on only just sufficiently long to excite a moderate degree of pain.

THE BEST REMEDIES.

Undoubtedly one of the best remedies for a stiff neck is an infusion of capsicum, red pepper or chillies, as it is sometimes called. The mode of preparation and application is sufficiently simple. You infuse a large handful of crushed capsicum pods in a pint of hot or cold water for thirty-six hours. You then soak a piece of lint in this infusion and apply it to the affected part, covering it all with a piece of gutta serena or oil silk to prevent evaporation. It never blisters or causes any inconvenience, and is so prompt in its action that it will often completely cure a bad case in ten minutes. Respecting the internal remedies for this complaint we have not much to say. Benefit sometimes arises from the use of salines which act on the skin and kidneys, and alter the state of the blood. The following mixture may be taken with advantage: Solution of acetate of ammonia, three ounces; spirit of nitrous ether, two and a half drachms; iodide of potassium, twenty-four grains; water, to eight ounces. Two table-spoonsful every four hours. In cases in which the patient is of a "gouty habit," colchicum should, of course, be employed. When the patient is much below par the use of cod-liver oil, iron and more especially quinine, will have to be resorted to. When the fever runs high acetate is indicated; when the complaint has in all probability arisen from exposure to damp, dulcamara should be tried; and when it is attended with tearing, lancinating pains, belladonna is the remedy. In the majority of cases we should put our trust in local applications, and above all in the capsicum treatment. The Turkish bath often proves useful as an adjunct.—*Philadelphia Times.*

A number of Philadelphia experts in coal mining and the manufacture of iron and steel have been granted a valuable concession by the czar for the purpose of developing the resources of a large tract of country in Southern Russia. The grant extends for eighty years and promises to be immensely profitable. About \$8,000,000 has been subscribed by American capitalists to put the enterprise on its feet.

Dr. Gutman, who for ten years has, for his health, frequented all the important watering places of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, says that when Americans are asked for payment at cafes it is their not unusual habit to hand their pocketbooks to the waiters, so that they may take out the required sum.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Turnip Culture.
It seems strange that when the feeding qualities of turnips have been so long recognized in foreign countries, that they have been so long in establishing themselves here for a like purpose, and as the product of an acre is so large, and aside from its feeding qualities, their sanitary effect upon stock so beneficial, it seems as if the farmers—not only stock raisers, but dairymen—would more generally adopt the practice of raising this crop, and using them judiciously as a winter feed, to vary the monotony of unchanging hay and cornmeal.

The turnip is not a very discriminating plant, and any good soil free from weeds, and kept so, will produce turnips, though a loamy or well fertilized sandy soil will best succeed. If the crop is drilled in, the rows should be fifteen inches apart, and after the crop has established itself it should be thinned down to two or three plants to the foot. If the crop is for table use new land should be selected, as land that has been cropped long is liable to impart a strong, unpalatable taste. The crop may be sown at any time after the weather becomes settled in the spring, but for stock feeding the first half of July will be best suited, both for the convenience of gathering and because the turnip favors cool, moist weather, which the late fall months furnish.

It may be said that turnips can be sown and yet not require a special preparation of the land, and many a farmer who, after the last hoeing of his potatoes, scatters the seed thin along the rows, and when the potatoes are dug the dirt is pulled back into the last hills, and the turnips are not disturbed. The fine soil that works down about them rather helps than injures them, and a big crop of turnips usually results. Sowing among the corn is another not objectionable method, for the turnips will not draw very much upon the soil until after the corn is cut up, and the after crop will prove a far more profitable one than planting pumpkins among the corn and far less injurious to the development of the ears.

Among root crops rutabagas hold a favorable position, but cannot be sown broadcast with any certainty; and if labor is to be taken into account, the turnip is the crop requiring the least labor. With increased attention to its cultivation there has come into notice a score of new varieties, and in addition to the old familiar names, we hear of the White Egg, Golden Ball, etc., each excellent, but will be a long while in superseding the Early Dutch, Purple Top, Stop Leaf, and for more southern latitudes, the Long White holds a conspicuous place, with no real rival.

If the turnip is to be fed to stock it is not necessary to cut off the tops, especially if you have a root cellar where a low, even temperature can be kept, and the green relish of the leaves together with the bulb will cause them to be eagerly devoured. With turnips, feed tops and all to sheep, with a small additional quantity of green, either oats or corn, the amount of hay required for a flock of sheep will be very small. If our farmers would make up their minds to give this root a trial, their superior feeding qualities would meet with prompt recognition.—*John Zupp, in Practical Farmer.*

The Manure Pile.

Nothing adds more to the riches of the farmer than the manure pile, says the *Farm and Fireside*, for without manure the crops can grow but feebly, and the fertility of the farm is not increased. It should be the object of every farmer to increase, in every possible manner, the bulk of his manure pile, and thereby increase the fertility of the farm, and consequently the dollars in his pockets.

Some of our best farmers every fall buy up a lot of stock for fattening, enough animals, in fact, to eat up all the grain and coarse feed they produce on the farm, and thus market their grain in the form of meat, from time to time, until late spring. Usually considerably more is realized in this way than selling the grain, and when merely the sum is obtained for the fat cattle, only enough to pay for the food and care, there is still a fair profit to the farmer in the shape of rich manure, and just on the farm where it is needed. Manure is the basis of good farming, and he who uses the most of it, judiciously, is sure to make it pay.

While but few persons seem to realize it, manure from grain-fed animals is worth fully twice as much as that from animals sparingly fed on it; it is richer in the elements of plant growth. Nearly every farm has some woodland attached, and in that woodland annually goes to waste much that can and should be utilized as fertilizing matter. We refer to leaves, which so few farmers make any use of. The off days and parts of days when there is not much else to do in the winter, can be profitably employed in gathering up the leaves and hauling them to the barnyard, where they can be used for bedding for horses, cows, pigs, etc., as well as spread thickly in the barnyard to absorb the liquid portions of the manure, which would otherwise be wasted by evaporation and drainage. This work gives profitable employment for both horses and men, at a time when the regular farm work is at a standstill on account of severely cold or inclement weather.

If there be muck or marl on the place, this should be dug out in the winter, especially the muck, so the frost can disintegrate it, and thus put it in better condition for plant food. This muck is useful when it has been separated well by frost as an absorbent, and is used mixed with the manure, or it can be spread alone over barnyard soil, which is deficient in vegetable matter, which many of the old Southern farms are.

Wearing Out of Soils.

It is common to hear people in the far West boast that they can take crop after crop from their virgin soils for several successive years without impairing the general fertility thereof. This is regarded as something marvellous and as something which could not occur in any other part of the world. It is, however, clear that this representation has been overdrawn. Only in the bottoms, such as that of the Muskingum, the Scioto, in Ohio, is there any great degree of permanence in this continual cropping, and this chiefly from the fact that fertilizing agents are brought down from the high lands about them. In the flat lands the stability of the great richness is little more than in the hands of the older States. In Ohio especially lands, once of superior quality for corn and wheat, have become so run down that they are given over to sheep walks, as being the only sure

thing—at least the surest return that can be made from the land.

We can do nearly as much here in the East. We have known land near Philadelphia, which has been under culture for perhaps a hundred years, produce corn six successive years in fair quantity, with no artificial aid but a little "shovelings," which means rich earth scraped together here and there and put in the hills when the corn is planted.

The fact is land is pretty much the same all the world over in its adaptation to certain crops. When things are forced to grow in land not well suited to their growth they soon fail, even when well cared for; but when they find their natural element no great amount of artificial aid is required to keep the land in good condition for years.

Even in the older countries of Europe, where land has been cultivated for a thousand years, this principle has been found to hold good. Experiments have been made with some of the cereals—first selecting land known to be favorable to some special thing, and then by manuring annually lightly with manure rich also known to be favorable to the plant. Crop after crop has been taken for twenty years, and the last has been as good as the first.

Yet with all these facts we often read of the question being discussed, will soil wear out? We believe there is no such thing in nature. Some of the elements will of course be much diminished, and will need an occasional replenishing; but we would not suppose our digestive organs had worn out because we feel hungry, and neither in any sensible light can we suppose soil will wear out.—*German Telegraph.*

Moths and Carpet Beetles.
These insects have a great repugnance to tallow and may be kept from woolens and furs for an indefinite period by its use. The wife of one of our American ministers, who resided abroad for many years, told us that she preserved her fine carpets left in this country entirely free from the ravages of moths by wrapping up with them tallow candles. When the carpet beetle has commenced his work the carpet should be taken up, sprinkled thoroughly with benzine and the floor painted over with melted tallow, taking care to fill up all the crevices in the floor, as in these the larvae secrete themselves. The carpet lining will prevent any tallow getting upon the carpet.

The *Builder and Woodworker* gives an account of the manner in which a set of furniture that seemed to be alive with the larvae of the moths was made good again. It was set into a room by itself and the upholstery saturated through and through with benzine, applied by means of a watering pot with a fine rose sprinkler. Three gallons at thirty cents a gallon were required. This killed every moth, larva and egg. The benzine dried out in a few hours and its entire odor disappeared in three or four days. Not the slightest harm happened to the varnish, or fabric, or wood or hair stuffing. Months passed and not a sign of a moth was seen. The carpets were sprinkled all around the sides of the room and with equally good effect.

When woolens or furs are infested with moths, if they are put in a box closed tightly, the moths will be destroyed. Those who can procure barrels or casks which alcohol has just been emptied will find them good to store woolens in. The atmosphere of such a barrel when closed tightly suffocates the pests. A garment that is sealed up in fine brown paper is safe from the moths, but it must be entirely free from them before being sealed up.

Put Clover on Your Land.

An Ohio paper says that by clovering hundreds of farms that were about worthless have been rescued from dilapidation and ruin. It is an accepted truth that as long as "clover will catch" the farm can soon be restored to paying fertility, and by a good rotation is even getting more productive and profitable; for after some years of such treatment the land will bear harder farming—that is, two or three crops may succeed a good coat of clover before laying down to clover again. Rough new land should be subdued by the use of large clover. Nothing so effectually rots out stumps and kills weeds and sprouts, and prepares the land for the plow and good paying crops. Wild, new lands should always have it sown on the first grain crop down. It saves a vast amount of labor, for in a few years it so tames the ground and clears it of enemies to the plow that it works like old ground, and is good for full crops. On a great error is often fallen into, and that is following the empty tradition that a bushel of clover seed will do for eight acres. That may have been enough to clover land partially when it was new, but whoever aims at getting up his land in a speedy and profitable way should sow a bushel on four acres so that his land may be thoroughly shaded.

Kill Your Sheep White-Yours.

There are few animals kept on the farm which, when they are in their prime, pay as well as sheep, and there are very few, if any others, upon which old age has such a damaging effect. As sheep are much shorter lived than any other of our domestic animals, it is not strange that many farmers attempt to keep them too long. At ten years of age the horse is just in his prime, and the cow is as good as ever, with the prospect of remaining so several years longer. But the sheep is very old when it reaches ten, the natural limit of the term of its life. After reaching this age sheep are very likely to be injured by the slight exposure which do younger animals no harm. They are more liable to be attacked by disease, and if they live they will be likely to produce less wool and smaller lambs than they have done previously. We do not think it pays, except, perhaps, in special instances, to keep sheep after they are six years old.

Handle Your Bee Carefully.

A Western beekeeper states from experience that it is an entirely mistaken idea that bees will not sting when irritated. When hives are rich with honey and the bees have all they can eat, swarms may be handled with impunity, while those taken from hives containing little or no unsealed honey will sting every man or beast within reach. The most vicious bees are produced by a cross between the native and the Italian varieties, although this hybrid makes up for other deficiencies by being usually active collectors of honey. He recommends to all who handle bees as a protection to the head, face and neck, a screen made of fine wire. Buckskin gloves as a covering for the hands, fastened at the wrist with an india rubber band, will be a sure protection. Although some claim to be able to handle bees without any protection whatever to face or hands, it is a dangerous and unnecessary exposure.