FOR THE FARM AND HOME.

Household Hints.

Dried bark of sassafras root put around dried fruit will protect it from worms.

Slightly dingy furniture may be made to look like new by applying a coat of pure oil.

To remove oils and varnish from silk fabrics use benzine, ether, and soap very cautiously.

To clean and polish tortoise-shell, use a drop or two of sweet oil, and rub it in thoroughly with the ball of the thumb.

To remove spots from furniture take four ounces of vinegar, two ounces of sweet oil, one ounce of turpentine. Mix and apply with a flannel cloth.

To cleanse porcelain saucepans, fill them half full of hot water and put in the water a tablespoonful of powdered borax, and let it boil. If this does not remove all the stains, scour well with a cloth rubbed with soap and borax.

To clean decanters, take some soft brown or blotting paper, wet and soap it and roll it up in small pieces and put into the decanter with some warm water. Shake well and then rinse with clear cold water; wipe the outside with a dry cloth, and let the decanter drain.

Recipes.

CHIPPED BEEF IN BUTTER.—Shave dried beef very thinly either with a knife or inverted plane. Put into a pan enough butter to cover the bottom when melted and then a cupful of shaved beef. Dredge with pepper. Stir about. When fairly hot through it is done. May be served heaped up on thin toast or in individual deep dishes.

RICE BREAD.—Rice bread makes a pleasing variety at the breakfast table. Take a pint of well-cooked rice, half a pint of flour, the yolks of four eggs, two tablespoonfuls of butter melted, one pint of milk, and half a teaspoonful of salt; beat these altogether; then lastly, add the whites of the four eggs which you have beaten to a stiff froth. Bake in shallow pans or in gem tins. Serve warm.

CUP CAKE.—Put three even coffee-cupfuls of flour into a sieve with one even teaspoonful of soda, two teaspoonfuls cream tartar; sift it on a large dish, break three eggs into the pan, heat well, then add one and a half cupfuls granulated sugar, half cupful soft butter, stir all till light and creamy, then add one cupful milk, stir a few times only; now add gradually the flour, beat well, flavor with lemon or almond; it will make two moderate sized cakes; throw a handful of currants or stoned raisins into it.

PEA SOUP.—A pound of peas will make a gallon of soup. The peas should be washed and soaked in cold water over night, then be cooked in five pints of water, with gentle simmering. A pound of beef or a ham bone may be boiled; for seasoning, add an onion with a few cloves stuck in it, salt to taste, and about forty whole grains of pepper. An ounce or two of sugar will add greatly to the richness of this, as it does to almost all soups. At the end of three hours simmering, pass the soup through a wire sieve or colander, with the aid of a potato masher. Fry brown some squares of stale bread in lard or drippings, and add just before serving, or serve these *croutons*, as they are called, separately, to be added at pleasure. Bean-soup may be made in a similar manner.—*American Agriculturist.*

Pure-Bred Stock.

As a rule pure-bred stock is not the most profitable for farmers to keep. Many who have tried to breed a herd of pure blood animals have failed. The cost to begin with is large. The writer recently visited a herd of Jersey cattle, some of the cows in which had cost many hundreds of dollars. The product in flesh and milk from these animals is not so much over that of the grade cow as to warrant the prices paid. The management that such close bred stock requires is much greater than that of grade stock; that is crosses between the pure blood and the native stock. Pure blood animals and herds, like the one above mentioned, are of value as breeding centres, from which the great mass of common stock can be built up. At a low estimate the value of the grade product can be raised $15 or $20 each, the first season. It may be that a farmer with a large herd of grades thus produced can afford to keep two or three pure blood animals for further improvement of the herd, but in many cases it will be better to replenish the pure blood from one of the centres of such stock. It is a national blessing that "fancy farmers," as they are sometimes called, are pleased to make such large investments in pure blood stock, for by this means the supply of any breed is kept up. It would be a calamity if from any cause these carefully managed herds should all be broken up and scattered. It is through them that the whole live stock of this country is to be improved by a gradual process of grading. In this important work the less fortune-favored stock raisers may find a profitable field of labor.—*American Agriculturist.*

Liquid Manure.

It is a matter of great surprise that so many farmers allow the liquid contents of their barnyards to be washed away into creeks and rivers instead of utilizing it in fertilizing their land. Nor will it ever be otherwise until proper means are taken to prevent it. There certainly would be no great trouble in doing so. All that is necessary is to dig a round pit or cistern of sufficient size just outside the barnyard, and wall it up with stone, firmly embedded in cement mortar to make it watertight. A trench or sort of blind ditch about a foot in depth—the sides of which to be also walled with stone—should then be dug all along the lower side of the yard, close inside the fence, for the purpose of conducting the liquid from the yard to the cistern, from which it is to be pumped or emptied as needed, into a five-barrel cask, placed in the hind end of a wagon to be hauled to wherever wanted. A hole should have been previously bored into the cask, near its lower heading, from which there should extend a piece of rubber hose to connect it with a distributer suspended from the rear end of the wagon by means of iron rods, the distributer to be made of a four-inch pump stock, five feet in length, closed at both ends, and perforated with quarter-inch holes at short intervals the whole length of the bottom, for the purpose of distributing the liquid over the land. With such a simple fix it is an easy matter to distribute the liquid as fast as accumulated, and it is particularly beneficial to grass land at any time when the grass is not large enough to be injured by being driven over. By this means, and by carefully saving and utilizing all other manurial material found on the premises, we verily believe that on a majority of farms the most of the money now being spent in the purchase of fertilizers could be saved.—*Baltimore Sun.*

Brilliant Meteors.

A surprising number of large and brilliant meteors have made their appearance within the last two or three weeks. On December 20 a meteor was seen in New Hampshire shooting across the sky in broad daylight. A few nights afterward a very large meteor was seen in Connecticut. On New Year's eve a brilliant fire ball, which burst into fragments, was seen from various places in New England. On New Year's night, just before the snowstorm set in, a flash of light in the sky, believed to have been caused by the passage of a large meteor, was seen in this city. On Wednesday night a big meteor was seen shooting over the State of Illinois, producing a startling illumination, and leaving a red trail of light in its wake. The earth is being continually bombarded by small meteors, which are called shooting stars, and many of which are probably no bigger than hickory nuts, so that the intense heat generated by their passage through the atmosphere quickly consumes them; but big meteoric masses, like those recently seen, which illuminate the heavens during their passage, and sometimes fall to the earth with terrific force, are rare. Whence they come is a mystery the astronomers have not solved. At any rate, nobody need be alarmed. The chance of being struck by lightning is many times greater than that of being hit by a meteor.—*N. Y. Sun.*

Watches and Diamonds.

The demand for American watches, both here and in Europe, has constantly been growing, and one American company, which is now producing 1,100 finished watches a day, is unable to fill orders except on long notice. There has been a heavy importation of Swiss watches the past year, but these are mostly of the cheaper line. The number of very costly diamonds sold in this country the past year has been remarkably large, the demand being unprecedented for exceptionally fine stones, both single and matched. Recently in several cases as high as $1,000 per karat has been paid for diamonds in this city in the trade, and they have been sold for this price by one dealer to another. Very high prices have been given by our dealers for rare stones in Europe, and when these diamonds have been brought here they have been resold in the trade at prices which have astonished the sellers themselves. Then, an enormous quantity of the cheaper diamonds have been worked up the past year in all kinds of gold and other jewelry. There has also been a strong demand for rubies and sapphires, which have advanced greatly in value, and there has been a rise in the cost of fine pearls.

The Massacre of the Mamelukes.

The Citadel, Cairo, was in 1811 the scene of the massacre of the last of the Mamelukes by Mohammed Ali, a deed of base treachery, but of consummate and successful policy; a *coup d'etat*, in fact. The Mamelukes had risen from the position of slaves to that of sultans. The Circassian dynasty produced a race of military princes who waged war with the Ottoman sultans. The last but one, Sultan Ghoree, was slain in battle in Syria, and his successor, Toman Bey, was routed on the plain between Cairo and Heliopolis. He was taken captive and hanged, and his head stuck on the malefactors' gateway, Bab Zooaylen. Though the supreme power had thus passed away from them, the Mameluke aristocracy still maintained their ancient valor, till their brilliant cavalry was routed by Napoleon at the battle of the Pyramids, and but a small remnant left. These Mameluke nobles had helped Mohammed Ali to the Pashalik, but it is supposed that they had changed their minds, and were plotting to destroy him. At all events, having used them as the ladder of his ambition, he found it expedient to get rid of them. He therefore invited them all to be present within the citadel, when a Pasha was to be invested with some military command. Four hundred and seventy of these magnificent beings accordingly rode up in great state, but when they turned to depart they found the gates closed, and from every corner a murderous fire of musketry rained upon them. From this horrible carnage one alone escaped, namely, Amyn Bey, who forced his horse to leap the rampart, a fall of forty feet. Happily he lighted on a heap of rubbish, and though the horse was killed, the man escaped, and giving himself into the care of the Arabs, found protection during the ensuing days, when the houses of Mamelukes were plundered, and all their relations, numbering about 1,000, were murdered, and the gate of Bab Zooayleh literally covered with those ghastly trophies, the heads of the slain. It is said that from this final massacre one other man escaped, Suleiman Aga by name, who disguised himself in the long blue robe of an Arab woman, and thus veiled, escaped his foes. This man had been the Pasha's prime favorite, and the story goes that, without showing any special disgust at his friend's treachery, he returned to his post of favorite, and even repeated the little joke of dressing up as an Arab damsel, who appearing before his highness as as a suppliant, pleaded her own cause with volubility, and carried her case, whereupon, removing her veil, she displayed the features of Suleiman, who is affirmed by living eye-witnesses to have continued for many years the cordial friend of the Pasha and other great folks in Cairo.

Population of Leading Cities in Europe.

The following statistics of the number of inhabitants of some of the principal cities in Europe have been recently issued. There are ninty-two cities in the whole of Europe each containing a population of more than 100,000, but only four which have more than a million viz: London, 3,832,440; Paris, 2,525,910; Berlin, 1,222,500; Vienna, 1,103,110. Of the other capitals, St. Petersburg possesses 876,570; Constantinople, 600,000; Madrid, 367,280; Buda-Pesth, 360,580, Warsaw, 339,340; Amsterdam, 317,010; Rome, 300,470; Lisbon, 246,340, Palermo, 244,990; Copenhagen, 234,850; Munich, 230,020; Bucharest, 221,800; Dresden, 220,820; Stockholm, 168,770; Brussels, 161,820; Venice, 132,830; Stutgards, 117,300. In addition to these, Moscow contains 611,970; Naples, 493,110; Hamburg, 410,120; Lyons, 372,800; Marseilles, 357,530; Milan, 321,840; Breslau, 272,910; Turin, 252,830; Bordeaux, 220,960; Barcelona, 215,960; Odessa, 193,510; Elberfeld, 189,480; Genoa, 179,510; Lille, 177,940; Florence, 169,000; Riga, 168,840; Prague, 162,520; Antwerp, 150,650; Andrinople, 150,000; Leipsic, 149,080, Rotterdam, 148,000; Cologne, 144,770; Magdeburg, 137,130; Frankfort, 136,820; Toulouse, 136,630; Ghent, 127,650; Messina, 126,500; Hanover, 122,840; Nantes, 121,960; Liege, 115,850; The Hague, 113,460; Oporto, 105,840, and Rouen, 104,010.

"What Was It You Said."

No man, says an English writer, ever enjoyed life more keenly than Anthony Trollope. He was full of common sense, yet ludicrously obstinate and perverse; roaring and spluttering, and wholly incapable of argument. Once he and a party of friends were in conclave at Henley. Same subject of importance was being considered, and some one made a suggestion. Trollope, engaged in conversation at the other end of the room, at once raised his head and his voice. "I differ from you entirely," he roared, like a bull at a red rag. "I differ from you entirely! *What was it you said?*"

"DAI BUTZU."

A Visit to a Famous Japanese Statue.

A Yokohama (Japanese) letter to the Detroit *Free Press* describes in picturesque language a visit paid to one of the most famous of Japanese statues. The Dai Butzu, says the writer:

"Early Sunday morning a party of three of us started from Yokohoma on a ride to the far-famed statue of Dai Butzu at Kamakura. Anxious to avoid the noonday heat as much as possible, we started at early dawn. Our road led us along the canal through the outlying villages in the suburbs of the settlement. The people were just beginning to rise and everything—except the canal—appeared fresh and cheerful. Looking at the sluggish waters of the canal covered with slum, and inhaling its odors, which came up on every hand, we ceased to wonder at the rapidity and fatality with which diseases—especially cholera—arose and spread among the native people. It was an immense relief when we crossed the last bridge of the canal where it enters a long cut through the rocky hills, and found ourselves in the open country. This cut is one made for the benefit of the kerosene trade, and took two years to finish it, besides the outlay of a large sum of money. It is looked upon by the Japs as a big piece of engineering. Leaving the canal behind us, our road wound among the rice fields, now passing through some small village, and then down a narrow path lined with tall bushes that shook their glistening dew-drops over us as we rushed by.

The rising sun saw us passing by the "Plains of Heaven." The road ascended and passed along the brow of a small hill, covered with a heavy growth of cedars, below us, stretching far away without a sign of human life to mar the calm beauty of the scene, lay the terraced rice fields with their green plants. Far off ahead of us, a single conical hill separated the valley from the one beyond, while opposite to the spot where we lingered by the gates but entered not, the fields rose with a gradual swell till the view was ended by a grove of cedars. It was a magnificent sight and one which fully justified the name the people had given it. After tarrying here as long as we dared, we pushed rapidly on, passing numerous villages and small temples, besides the wayside shrines which are to be found everywhere.

The sun was beginning to feel very uncomfortable when, at 10:30 A. M., we entered the outskirts of the Village of Kamakura. Passing through the village we entered the immense temple which is here, and rode for some time under the shadows of the great cedars which are the crowning beauty of the place. The limits of the temple seemed very large and and it was not till 11 A. M., that we caught the reflection of the sun from the bronze head of Dai Butzu.

Approaching the statue the face has a remarkable expression of placid repose, and notwithstanding its immense size, is so admirably proportioned that it loses nothing of its effect on a near approach. It is fifty feet high and ninty-six feet in circumference, the face being eight and a half feet in length. The knee is thirty-eight feet in diameter and the thumb three and a half feet in circumference. It is cast in several places, the lines of jointure being plainly seen and represents the god sitting on a pedestal with his legs crossed in front of him and his hands clasped. It was cast in A. D. 1252 at the desire of one of the "Shoguns" or native governors. The casting is hollow, and one realizes more fully its immense size when standing inside and seeing the ladders which lead up into the dome-like head. The inside is fitted up as a temple with numerous little statues arranged around its sides. Finding that a native photographer had taken up his residence here, for the purpose of suppyling visitors with photographs of the statue, and always desirous of improving our opportunities, the three of us perched ourselves on the god's thumb-nails and had our pictures taken. It is by such contrasts of the size of the human frame with the image that the photographer best expresses in a picture the immesity of the casting. It is said that at Nara there is another casting of the same image, the face of which is sixteen feet long, and yet the hight of the statue is said to be only fifty-three and one-half feet. In all their castings, whether large or small, the workmen have devoted themselves to their tasks with an intense love for them, and nowhere in all the world can better bronze work be found than the work of "Old Japan." There are many secrets of the trade that they still keep, notably the imparting of a greenish tinge to the metal which is produced in the casting.

A Florida youth has discovered that strong, soft, flexible rope can be made from the fiber of the common cocklebur bush.

Success in Life.

Without unremitting labor, success in life, whatever our occupation, is impossible. A fortune is not made without toil, and money unearned comes to few. The habitual loiterer never brings anything to pass. The young men whom you see lounging about waiting for the weather to change before they go to work, break down before they begin—get stuck before they start. Ability and willingness to labor are the two great conditions of success. It is useless to work an electrical machine in a vacuum, but the air may be full of electricity, and still you can draw no spark until you turn the machine. The beautiful statue may exist in the artist's brain, and it may also be said in a certain sense to exist in the marble block that stands before him, but he must bring both his brains and his hands to bear upon the marble, and work hard and long, in order to produce any practical result. Success also depends in a good measure upon the man's promptness to take advantage of the rise of the tide. A great deal of what we call "luck" is nothing more nor less than this. It is the man who keeps his eyes open, and his hands out of his pockets, that succeeds. "I missed my chance," exclaims the disappointed man, when he sees another catch eagerly at the opportunity. But something more than alertness is needed; we must know how to avail ourselves of the emergency. An elastic temperament, which never seems to recognize the fact of defeat, or forgets it at once and begins the work over again, is very likely to ensure success. Many a great orator has made a terrible break-down in his maiden apeech. Many a merchant loses one fortune only to build up another and a large one. Many an inventor fails in his first efforts, and is at last rewarded with a splendid triumph. Some of the most popular novelists wrote very poor stuff in the beginning. They were learning their trade, and could not expect to turn out first-class work until their appenticeship is over. One great secret of success in not to become discouraged, but always be ready to try again.

High Food.

may be laid down as a great principle that meat, fish or poultry in a state of decay cannot be eaten with safety, since symptoms of irritant poisoning have so frequently arisen from this cause. But a little consideration will show us the impossibility of drawing a hard and fast line upon this point. We relish venison which has partially undargone decay, while we at once reject beef or mutton in a similar condition. Again, poultry to be palatable must be fresh, yet we do not scruple to eat game which is far advanced in decomposition. There is no doubt that in many cases we are guided by our palates in determining what food is wholesome for us; for while many of us eat moldy cheese, a Chinaman will swallow bad eggs, and some races enjoy fish which we should consider putrid. Even as regards oysters, which are generally relished in proportion to their freshness, it is sometimes a matter of taste. For example, it is recorded of the first monarch of the house of Hanover that he objected to the English native oyster as being deficient in flavor. It was privately suggested by a shrewd courtier that the native oyster should be allowed to become somewhat stale before being brought to the royal table. The king at once recognized the flavor which had always pleased him so much at Herrenhausen, and gave orders that in future he should always be supplied from that particular bed. The absence of evil consequence after eating food which had undergone a certain amount of decay is doubtless due in many cases to the completeness of the cooking process; but this does not militate against the general rule that food in any state of decay is unwholesome and should be avoided. Of late years there have been many cases of poisonous symptoms arising from the use of canned meats. The cause appears mainly to have been improper methods of canning, or of the use of meat that was tainted before being canned. An examination of the outside of the can is our only available guide as regards this class of article. The head of the can should be slightly concave, where, as if it be convex it shows that decomposition has commenced within the can. Sometimes through careless soldering the preserved article becomes contaminated with lead, and poisoning by this substance is the result.—*Good Words.*

Example is the light of day, every man sees it, every man's life proves what his character is. If he is honest those he deals with know it. Every honest man does as he agrees and pays his debts. A dishonest man does neither. If a man's word is good for nothing what kind of a man is he? Every man that deals with him is sure to have trouble.

Snowflakes.

Falling all the night-time,
Falling all the day,
Crystal-winged and voiceless,
On their downward way.

Falling through the darkness,
Falling through the light,
Covering with beauty
Vale and mountain height—

Never summer blossoms
Dwelt so fair as those;
Never lay like glory
On the fields and trees.

Rare the airy wreathing,
Deftly turned the scroll,
Hung in woodland arches,
Crowning meadow knoll.

Freest, chastest fancies,
Votive art, may be,
Winter's sculptors rear to
Summer's memory.

J. V. Cheney, in the Critic.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

A play should be judged by its acts.

Silence is the better part of some orator's eloquence.

The man who lends his influence rarely gets it back.

The meat dealer should be a rich man for he is always ready to make a steak.

The best time to offer your hand to a lady—when she is getting out of an omnibus.

Bow to destiny. One of these days destiny may be polite enough to return the compliment.

The man who was hemmed in by a crowd has been troubled with a stitch in his side ever since.

A new book is titled "Short Savings of Great Men." When are we to have "Great Savings of Short Men?"

It takes a girl about four hours longer to wash the front windows of a house than the back windows.

So long as the school-teacher keeps the pupils in his eye nobody can deny that he has a perfect right to lash his pupils.

Many a man who snals and growls at his wife in public is very loving and tender when no one else is around. He has to be.

"Whistlers are always good-natured, says a philosopher. Everybody knows that. It is the folks who have to listen to the whistling that get ugly.

Somebody has discovered that the correct pronunciation of the word Khedive is "Kedowa." They might as well tell us that the proper way to pronounce bee-hive is behowa.

The town of Paris, Tex., has raised a potato five feet long. The Colorado beetle hasn't heard of that fashionable summer resort. When it does we shall read of a potato bug to match.

Don't squander any time over prehistoric man, but rather put in your spare hours wondering if the new family on the corner are the sort of people to lend coffee and sugar and baking powder.

"Jones, if burglars should come into your house, what would you do?" "I'd do whatever they required of me. I never had my own way in that house yet, and it is too late to begin now—yes, alas! it's too late!"

"What are you looking around for so much?" asked a mother of her sixteen-year-old son, with whom she was walking. "I am looking around on your account." "On my account?" "Yes. I want to pick you out a good-looking daughter-in-law."

The other day a stage driver in the Black Hills undertook to horsewhip the passengers into getting out of the stage and pushing it up the hill, but the passengers emptied their revolvers into him a few times, held a coroner's inquest, and found that he had died of pneumonia.

"I declare," exclaimed a boarder at a dinner table recently, "this is the most affectionate pie I ever saw." "Affectionate pie!" cried every one at the table, including the landlady. "Yes," said the boarder, "the upper and lower crusts are so affectionate that they won't allow anything between them."

At a dinner party the little son of the host and hostess was allowed to come down to dessert. Having had what his mother considered a sufficiency of fruit, he was told he must not have any more, when, to the surprice of every one of the guests, he exclaimed: "If you don't give me some more I'll tell!" A fresh supply was at once given him, and as soon as it was finished he repeated his threat; whereupon he was suddenly and swiftly removed from the room, but he had just time to convulse the company by exclaiming: "My new trousers are made out of ma's old bedroom curtains!"

There is many a soul trudging along life's pathway with weary, uncertain steps, sad and downhearted, who would, if there was a kind hand reached out to help them, walk erect and step lightly, and even sing while [illegible] over rough places.

There are 5,000,000 people in Belgium, and they consume 60,000,000 quarts of alcoholic liquors. There is one public house for every twelve men