"SHOULDER-RANK."

BY THE AUTHOR OF "A WOMAN'S POEMS."

"West Point!" Yes, that was the one grand argument ever so long
At the capital, I remember now, in our far-back battle-days.
If the hour's great Leader blundered and war, therefore, went wrong,
West Point would give a subtle faith in that great Leader's ways.
West Point—Ah, well, no doubt they can graduate generals there,
Why, I wonder they do not send them out, plumed, sworded, and ready-scarr'd,
And just because one when a boy has happened somehow to wear
The uniform of their cadets, let his shoulders be splendidly starr'd!
And if he in such starlight should grope on a little ahead
Of the failures of two or three others and fall in some shining high place,
Does that go to prove that not one in the dusty dim legions he led
Could give him his orders in secret and point him the way to your grace?
Oh, you fancy you honor where honor is due? But I tell
You may shake the hand that finished your work, nor guess at the head that planned it,
What if I tell you that one who studied the science of steel,
In the nameless name of a Private commanded his chief to command!
If I say that he passed, through a wound in his breast, up the hill,
And lies buried where grave-marks by thousands at Arlington whiten the air—
Why—you will go on and believe that our very first warrior still
Sits smoking his pipe of Peace in the Presidential easy chair!

AGRICULTURE.

Fruit and Vegetables by Weight.

WE clip from the *American Grocer* the following just and timely article on the subject of selling vegetables and fruits by weight. It cannot fail to commend itself to the good sense of both producer and consumer:

"We hope to see accomplished the reform of selling by weight vegetables, fruits, eggs and nearly every edible article sold by measure. Boxes in which fruits are sent are of all sizes and shapes, filled in all sorts of ways; cases of the same number of boxes from different producers will differ from three to six pounds in weight of fruit, though the quality may be the same, and the family who buys from one consignment gets more for the money than those who buy from another; the producer who is most honest gets least. A premium is thus paid for deception, and the worst of it is the consumer, in nine cases out of ten, does not know that he has been cheated. A man who buys a barrel of apples does not know whether he is getting two or three bushels. Few people stop to think about it. There is no law fixing the standard of a barrel of apples or other fruit that we know of. If a producer is honest enough to send his apples in barrels containing two and a half to three bushels, there are plenty of dealers dishonest enough to transfer them to barrels that contain but two bushels; and a barrel of apples *is* a barrel of apples, no matter what size. Either there should be a barrel standard fixed, or the fruit should be sold by weight."—*Ex.*

We append the following remedy for small pox, because this fearful disease is getting rather common, and because many are opposed to vaccination on account of the many fearful diseases thereby transmitted.—*Ed.*

A SMALL POX REMEDY.—A correspondent of the Stockton (Cal.) *Herald* writes as follows:

I herewith append a recipe which has been used to my knowledge in hundreds of cases. It will prevent or cure the small pox though the pittings are filling. When Jenner discovered cow-pox in England, the world of science hurled an avalanche upon his head, but when the most scientific school of medicine in the world—that of Paris—published this recipe as a panacea for small pox, it passed unheeded. It is as unfailing as fate, and conquers in every instance. It is harmless when taken by a well person. It will also cure scarlet fever. Here is the recipe as I have used it, and cured my children of scarlet fever; here it is as I have used it to cure small pox; when learned physicians said the patient must die, it cured.

Sulphate of zinc, one grain; fox glove (digitalis.) one grain; half a teaspoonful of sugar; mix with two table spoonfuls of water. When thoroughly mixed, add four ounces of water. Take a spoonful every hour. Either disease will disappear in twelve hours. For a child smaller doses according to age. If countries would compel their physicians to use this, there would be no need of pest houses. If you value advice and experience, use this for that terrible disease.

The *Rural New Yorker* has the following: Chickens are very often seen in the poultry yard drooping and moping about, and finally die before any attention is paid them, and the breeders are profuse in their queries as to what killed their fowls. One reason is that the chickens are either too highly fed or become lousy. In the former case the food should be chopped eggs, bread and meat scraps from the table chopped fine, and let them have plenty of fresh mold and road sand or gravel. In the latter case, put some wormwood in their water and grease the head thoroughly with lard or butter. In our youthful days the first thing we did after the chicken was out of the shell was to saturate its head well with fresh butter. This precaution, in our opinion, has saved many a brood.

CULTIVATE THE CORN.—Constant cultivation cannot be too strongly urged for the corn crop. As soon as the blade appears above ground, pass through the rows with a harrow made for the purpose, or with the cultivator. Constant stirring of the soil will destroy the young weeds and push the corn ahead. A week thus gained may save the crop from an injurious frost when near ripening. An excellent implement for this purpose is Shares' horse-hoe; with it a careful hand may cut out the weeds to within an inch of the growing corn. By going twice in a row the crop may be effectually hoed, and much hand-weeding saved. The soil does not need stirring deeply; one inch is sufficient; deeper would injure the corn roots, which love to spread near the surface. For this reason all deep cultivation should be avoided.—The surface should be kept level; the crop will thrive better than by burying the roots under a ridge of soil; therefore, keep the plow out of the cornfield. This crop requires heat and moisture, and a level, mellow, porous surface will secure these. A soil packed with rain and baked by the hot sun, cannot be endured; therefore, if a heavy rain should occur, followed by dry weather, turn in at once to the exclusion of all else, and break up this crust.