USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

SIZE OF WAGON-WHEELS.—Experiments recently made in England indicate that wagons are most easily drawn, on all kinds of roads, when the fore and hind wheels are of the same size, and when the pole lies lower than the axle.

DESTRUCTION OF NIGHT-FLYING INSECTS.—Millions of insects injurious to trees may be destroyed by keeping up numbers of small fires from twilight to midnight and surrounding them with circles of twenty to thirty tarred stakes, not more than six inches apart. Although few insects will be found burned to death, since they soon seem to acquire a dred of the fire, many will be caught in the tar while moving about in the warmed stratum of air or to and from the fire.

CLEANING GILT ARTICLES.—Gilt metallic articles may be cleaned by rubbing them very gently with a soft sponge or brush dipped in a solution of one-half an ounce of potash, or one ounce of soda, or still better, of one-half an ounce of borax in a pound of water, then rinsing them in pure water, and drying with a soft linen rag. Their luster may be improved in special cases by warming them slightly and then rubbing them very gently. Gilt frames, etc., should only be washed with pure water, rubbing very gently with a soft sponge or brush.

WEATHER-PROOF COATING FOR ZINC.—According to Puscher, the addition of sesquioxide of iron to a solution of basic acetate of lead affords a fine brownish-red permanent coating for zinc; and by the substitution of other pigments lighter or darker coatings, of any desired shade, may be imparted to architectural zinc castings. Deep black, permanent characters may be formed on clean sheet-zinc by writing upon it with a steel pen with a solution of equal parts of chlorate of potash and sulphate of copper in thirty-six times the quantity of hot water, and washing and drying the zinc after a few minutes. This fact may be especially useful to gardeners.

LEAF AND FLOWER IMPRESSIONS.—Oil a piece of white paper on one side; hold the side that is oiled over a lamp or pine knot, smoke till quite black; place the leaf on the black surface, as the veins and fibers of the leaves show plainer on the under part; now press it on all parts of the leaf with the fingers; then take up the leaf and put the black oiled sides on the page of the book (made for leaf impressions) with an extra piece of nice paper on the top to prevent smutting the opposite page, press it a few moments; then remove the green leaf and the impression will be left on the page as beautiful as an engraving. Flowers of single corolla can be pressed in like manner. Many of the geranium leaves make beautiful impressions. The impression book can be made still more interesting by giving botanical classifications of each leaf and flower.

TEMPERATURE AND CHURNING.—Mr. L. F. Scott writes the Country Gentleman that if the milk stands in a cool, dry, airy room by itself until the cream is taken off, it is not so essential that the cream be kept at the exact temperature of fifty-eight degrees provided the cream is taken to a cool place (about sixty degrees) as soon as taken off and remains there until churned. Neither is it essential that it be churned in a Blanchard or Eureka churn. There is no churn that makes better or more butter than the old dash churn, or one on that principle. A crank churn is a little easier or more natural to use, but it is necessary to avoid all double-geared crank churns, which agitate the cream in an unnatural degree, and make oily butter. The longer the churn is kept going in the same temperature the more solid the butter. It is not the churn alone that turns the cream to butter in a given time; everything must be done correctly and systematically from the first. He is not in favor of deep setting, but prefers a large common tin pan, set in a cool, dry, airy room—the milk all to be skimmed before it sours.

RAILROAD TRAIN TIMER.—An ingenious invention has lately been successfully tested on the Vandalia railroad, Ind., which records the motion of railway cars. There is a locked iron box attached to one side of the car and containing a clock. The mechanism of the latter causes a small drum, on which is wound a sheet of paper, to travel at a constant rate. With the axle, by means of rods and gearing, a pencil touching this paper is connected. As the pencil is moved slowly across the paper, by its mechanism governed by the axle, and, as the paper is slowly moved forward, line back and forth. The paper is ruled in very small sections, every fourth line being dotted and representing one mile; so that, supposing the car goes a mile in four minutes, the line will cross just our sections diagonally from one dotted line to the next one. If the car stops, the line crosses the paper directly and shows the number of minutes that the train is at rest. The names of the stations are written at the proper places on the paper, and thus the exact rate of speed made at any point on the line can be subsequently noted. The apparatus thus affords an excellent check on the train officials, as if the train be run ahead or behind time, the fact is sure to be detected.

Truant Children.

A new law in reference to truant children is about to go into effect in New York city. It is designed to clear the street of the young vagrants who, growing up without care, furnish many recruits to the criminal classes. The law gives the board of education authority over all children between the ages of 8 and 14 who are found wandering about the streets and public places during school hours, having no lawful occupation or business, and growing up in ignorance. These children the board may order to be taught in the schools like ordinary pupils, or they may be instructed in useful trades, or they may be put in confinement and educated there. The agency of the police force is availed for the enforcement of this new law.

Taking Care of Tools.

It will not do, in these days, to leave the plow in the furrow, the harrow in the field, and the mower or reaper under an open shed with a leaky roof. These and all lesser implements must be carefully put away in dry quarters, for to allow them to rust during the winter will injure them more than several campaigns of active service. The depreciation of machinery is very rapid, even when properly cared for; when neglected, this depreciation is simply destruction, quick and sure.

Reapers, mowers and drills should be taken apart and cleaned, each bolt dipped in melted tallow, and then replaced. Every portion of wood and exposed iron should be covered with a good coat of paint, if not already thus protected, and all parts made of steel should be taken off, well annointed with olive oil and wrapped in paper or put away in a damp-proof tool house or store-room. The machines themselves should be kept in a building with a tight roof over it, and fowls should not be permitted to get access to them. Poultry take a perverse delight in perching upon such implements, but no tidy farmer will gratify them to this extent.

Plows should be brought in, well washed and cleaned from the soil, the wood-work coated with petroleum and the shares and mold-boards scoured off, polished and then brushed over with a thick wash of lime. They will not rust in the least, and in the spring will come out clean and bright. No salt should be brought in contact with tools of any kind, nor old salt-sacks be thrown over them. Harrows should be cleaned, the wood-work oiled with petroleum or painted, and the teeth taken out and sharpened for next season's service. All repairs should be made against time of need, to avoid vexatious delays in the hurry of planting or harvest. Mechanics still work for somewhat less in the winter than in summer, when they are busier, and that is an important consideration. Besides, that old adage about "a stitch in time" applies most forcibly to farm tools. Wagons should now be washed clean, and immediately painted and put under cover. It is only a simple truth that such care of tools and implements as we suggest will lengthen out their period of usefulness far beyond that of their ordinary endurance. *New York Tribune.*

A Dense Farming Population.

The valley of the Po extends from east to west across the Italian Peninsula, from the Apennines to the Adriatic—a distance, on an air-line, of nearly three hundred miles. The width of the valley between the mountain walls which bound the plain averages about eighty-five miles; and it contains something like 26,000 square miles of land, as level and rich as the prairies of Illinois. The mountain-slopes and valleys which are cultivated and densely populated will add about four thousand square miles to the Po valley—making in all thirty thousand square miles of arable land, or an area something larger than the state of Indiana. On this plain, and within these mountain-confines, there live and are subsisted twelve millions of souls! This area is scarcely as large as Ireland, but it supports twice the population of that thickly inhabited island. It contains as many people as the ten western states, including Ohio and Wisconsin, while its territory is but the size of the smallest of them. The ten western states, if populated as densely as the valley of the Po, would contain 220,000,000 of inhabitants—that is to say, 4000 to the square mile.

POPULAR FALLACY AND DECEPTIONS.—It is an infirmity of man to cling to the teachings of a past generation, and to stubbornly resist the light of reform and progress. Health reform and temperance growth are jealously watched over by the poison bitters compounders. One great prevailing deception of the present age, is the impression that every human biped of either sex must be stimulated, and the poisoned chalice is labeled "medicated bitters," the better to palliate their use and prolong the epidemic. One of the most zealous workers to cure this malady, Dr. Joseph Walker, inventor and proprietor of the famed California Vinegar Bitters, believes in making bitters that are "true medicine," and advises the sick man to swallow a draught that will wash out the leprosy of his disease. In this faith he is steadfast, and his Vinegar Bitters, though a contradiction to the general character of all other bitters, are, as a great success and life vitalizer, evidence of one popular fallacy and corrected.

A Famous Medical Institution.

From the Chicago Times.

"The name of Dr. R. V. Pierce has become as familiar to the people all over the country as household words. His wonderful remedies, his pamphlets and books, and his large medical advice and given him a solid reputation. The Times, in the present issue, presents a whole-page communication from Dr. Pierce, and our readers may gain from it some idea of the vast proportions of his business and the merits of his medicines. He has at Buffalo a mammoth establishment, appropriately named "The World's Dispensary," where patients are treated, and the remedies compounded. Here nearly a hundred persons are employed in the several departments, and a corps of able and skilled physicians stand ready to alleviate the sufferings of humanity by the most approved methods. These physicians are in frequent consultation with Dr. Pierce, and their combined experience are brought to bear on the successful treatment of obstinate cases. The doctor is a man of a large medical experience, and his extensive knowledge of medicine has been acknowledged by presentations of degrees from two of the first medical colleges in the land. How meritorious his works are may be inferred from the fact that his pamphlets and books have been translated into German, Spanish, and other foreign languages, and have been in heavy demand. As an evidence of the business of the dispensary, it is only necessary to state that for the quarter ending March 31, 1874, the sum expended for postage alone, not to speak of that paid on newspapers received was $2,080.70. A perusal of the communication will be found interesting reading, and will show to what proportions a medical institution can grow under able management and well directed effort."

If you would patronize medicines, scientifically prepared by a skilled physician and chemist—use Dr. Pierce's Family Medicines. Golden Medical Discovery is nutritious, tonic, alterative, or blood cleansing, and an unequaled cough remedy; Pleasant Purgative Pellets, scarcely larger than mustard seed, constitute an agreeable and reliable physic; Favorite Prescription—a remedy for debilitated females; Extract of Smart Weed, a magical remedy for pain, bowel complaints, and an unequaled liniment for both human and horse flesh; while his Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy is known the world over as the greatest specific for catarrh and "cold in head," ever given to the public.

The Gift Concerts in aid of the Kentucky Library are chartered by the state of Kentucky. The first prize in the next drawing, which takes place November 30, is $250,000. It is a reliable institution, and some one will get that money. That there may be no doubt as to the honesty of its management, we cite the fact that the best banks in Louisville indorse it, and that Gov. Tho. E. Bramlette, of Louisville, is the general manager. An institution so fathered is certainly deserving of confidence.

—Straw jewelry is something new. It comes from Niagara; it can be purchased from those imitation Modocs who infest that locality. The ear-rings are small baskets, stars, daggers, etc., and there is a funny kind of bracelet, like stripes of a cane-bottom chair.

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ELMWOOD COLLARS are now all the rage in society. Elmwood Collars make the homeliest man look stylish. Elmwood Collars fit the neck beautifully. It beats all how closely the Elmwood Collar imitates linen.—*Philadelphia Evening Star.*

—A Terre Haute child, on being asked what she would do if her mother should die, said: "I would die, too." Being asked how she would die, replied: "Eat myself to death."

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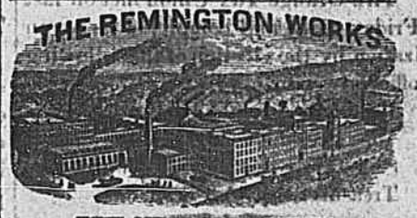

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