USEFUL AND SUGGESTIVE.

—Boiled Codfish.—Soak over night; put in a pan of cold water and simmer two or three hours; serve with drawn butter with hard boiled eggs sliced on it.

—Butter Sponge Cake.—Three cups of sugar, one cup of milk, one spoonful of butter, three eggs, three cups of flour and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder.

—Mock Mince Pie.—Four rolled soda crackers, one cup sugar, one cup molasses, one cup vinegar, one cup water, one cup raisins; spice like mince pie. An upper crust is required.

—Oil-cloths should be washed well to free them from dirt, and then have two coats of copal varnish given them. If this is done once a year, it would insure the lasting of the cloth as long again as it otherwise would.

—Muffins.—One pint of milk, butter size of egg, half cup of yeast, two eggs, flour. Boil the milk and put in the butter; when nearly cool stir in the eggs, which should be well beaten, then the yeast and flour; set them to rise for six hours, and bake in muffin rings.

—Tough beefsteak may be made tender by beating it with a mallet, pouring vinegar over it and giving it a sprinkle of pepper, but do not put any salt to it. This treatment will cause the toughest steak to be tender and palatable. Pour off the vinegar before cooking it.

—Snow Pudding.—Pour over three tablespoonfuls of cornstarch (dissolved in cold water) one pint of boiling water, beat whites of three eggs and pour in earthen dish; steam ten minutes. Sauce: Beat the yelks of the eggs, one cup of sugar, one cup of milk, and butter size of a walnut; boil till thick. This is nicest to be eaten cold.

—Pumpkin Pie.—Three tablespoonfuls stewed pumpkins, one tablespoonful flour, one egg, a pinch of salt, a little ginger and any other spice to suit the taste: Be careful to put in so little that the pie will not taste of any one in particular. Take out of the oven as soon as the pie is well-baked, which will be when it rises in an oval in the middle.

—Smoky Chimneys.—Trouble with smoky chimneys caused by their being used for two or more stoves, may be averted in most cases by inserting vertically in the flue a piece of sheet iron, dividing the flue in the center for about two feet above the point where each pipe enters, turning the bottom of the sheet iron under the pipe, so as to shut it completely off from the part of the flue below it.

—Blood-spavins.—The soft, puffy swellings in the neighborhood of the hock joint, are known as bog or blood spavins. They are soft and yield easily to pressure. They are caused by inflammation of the synovial membrane, and may be brought on by sprains or other injuries, or by natural weakness and defect in constitution. They are best let alone. They rarely cause lameness, and are never permanently cured. Cold water bandages, with pressure pads, is the best treatment.—*New York Tribune.*

—As to the manurial value of different cattle foods it is found that the oil cakes yield the richest manure, as they contain the largest amount of nitrogen and phosphoric acid, with a considerable amount of potash. Next these beans and peas, malt dust and bran. Clover hay yields a richer manure than oats, wheat, barley or corn, while meadow hay stands before the cereal grains. The various grains and the roots, like turnips, carrots and Swedes, contain about the same proportion of nitrogen in their dry substance; the roots, however, supply much more potash. Potatoes stand below other roots in manurial value. Straw takes the lowest place as a manure-yielding food, bean and pea straw being more valuable for this purpose than the straw of the cereals.

Deep Plowing.

The popular verdict has pronounced against deep plowing, and the five-inch furrow seems to be the "general level." The fact that was proclaimed in the beginning of the controversy was that Nature's plans were always carried on very near the surface, and when the soil was kept rich the results were on the side of medium depth. As a rule the fertility brought from the lower stratas is never worth the outlay to bring to the surface. It is yet to be demonstrated that any farmer ever succeeded in raising a paying series of crops by any other method than enriching the soil as fast as impoverishable, by the by-products of the farm. Roots of grains lay very close to the surface where they can receive light, air and moisture, then at this point the greatest fertility should be concentrated. If this part of the soil is of the fresh, raw subsoil that has just been brought to the surface, and has, therefore, not been subjected to the breaking down process, and made pliable and mellow by action of frost and other elements, so as to become available plant food, failure must come. The roots will be forced to a lower level where the real soil is, and this strata being colder and less acted upon by sun and air, there will be a probability for a light crop. The farmer who fails in keeping his soil fertile enough to produce a crop by medium depth plowing will be quite as likely to fail by practicing deep plowing, and not proportionately enriching his deeper plowings by the best applied fertilization.—*Cleveland Herald.*

—Salt beef from America is to be introduced in the British Navy instead of the English article heretofore furnished from the victualing establishment at Deptford.

Public Spirit.

The following is taken from a paper by Dr. Holland in the *Century Magazine*, (recently Scribner's):

There is no point at which personal meanness betrays itself so strongly and surely as it does when brought into relation to schemes of public improvement. Set a subscription paper going through a community, to raise money for some public object, and it will usually sift out the mean men as certainly as a screen will sift the dust from a bushel of coal. We have a great many men who are not stingy with their families, who are by no means parsimonious, yet who have insuperable objections to giving away anything that does not minister directly to their personal comfort or gratification. A church is wanted, or a public library, or a park, or something else for the common benefit, and the want and the effort to meet it furnish a very reliable test of the character of those appealed to. We have rich men in every community so notoriously stingy, and so unfriendly to all schemes of public improvement, that they are not even approached for a contribution. On the other hand, we have men in every community who have what we call "public spirit." Nothing that can minister to the general good ever receives a cold welcome from them, or a niggardly response to its appeal.

Very few men are so stolidly selfish that they cannot see that membership in a family involves certain duties toward the family—support, protection, mutual assistance. The head of a family—no matter how selfish and stingy he may be—recognizes the fact that he owes to that family shelter, sustenance, clothing, education, etc. Very few, too, fail to see that, as citizens, they owe certain duties to the town they live in, to the State, to the Nation. They pay their taxes and expect to pay them. It cannot be said that they always do this willingly or honestly, but they know that they must pay something for the laws that protect them, for the roads that give them passage across the country, and for the support of the Government. As heads of families and citizens of the State, they apprehend the fact that they owe duties whose fulfillment costs money. What is necessary beyond this is that they should see that membership in a social community involves duties just as really and distinctly as family ties or citizenship. No man can belong to a social community—as all men do who are not hermits—without having imposed upon him a great many duties. He owes it to that community to make it, so far as he can, intelligent, comfortable, respectable. There is no wise scheme of improvement to which he does not owe his support and encouragement; and he cannot turn his back upon any such scheme without a failure in the offices of good neighborhood, or without convicting himself of a mean selfishness that is disgraceful to him and to the family and town to which he belongs.

—Philadelphia has already prepared a programme for the celebration, a year hence, of the 200th anniversary of the landing of William Penn. There will be three days of processions, naval displays, historical tableaux, fireworks, feasts and speeches.

—The man who won't work for a dollar a day will spend two hours a day trying to solve a riddle for nothing.

E. L. LOWEREE, Esq., cashier of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad, says the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, was cured by St. Jacobs Oil of a stubborn case of rheumatism, which wouldn't yield to physicians' treatment.—*Brooklyn Eagle.*

FRESHMAN: "Action and reaction are equal and opposite, as, for instance, when a cannon jumps as far backward as the ball goes forward."

THE Albany (N. Y.) *Press and Knickerbocker* says: "The largest following we know of to-day is that of St. Jacobs Oil; for where St. Jacobs Oil is, there rheumatism is not."

THE cry of Egypt—I want my mummy.

WOULD that bell indicator be of any use in a ball-room?

THE only thing that a lady dislikes about a postal-cord is that it is hardly large enough to allow her to show what she can do in the matter of postscripts.

MOTHER (to new girl, who has been hired to amuse the children): "Mary, how is this? These children are making a terrible noise." Mary: "Well, indeed they are, ma'am, and I'm so glad you've come in. Here I've been trying to write for the last half hour, and their noise is so distracting."

BARRETT'S Life of Edwin Forrest contains many interesting anecdotes of the famous tragedian; but there still remain many which have never been printed. Once, when he was playing William Tell, in Boston, Sarnem, Gessler's lieutenant, should have remarked: "I see you love a jest; but jest not now." Imagine Forrest's feelings when that worthy declaimed: "I see you love a jest; but not jest now!"

GENTLEMAN meets a friend and takes him home to dinner. Arrived at the house he leaves him in the sitting-room to announce the fact to his wife. The friend, hearing directly a clamor of tongues in the adjoining room, decorates the keyhole with his ear. Shrill Voice—Always the way—bringing people home without a minute's warning! Him, too! Why couldn't you leave him to fatten on his usual free-lunch route? Hoarse Voice—Ssh! Shrill Voice—I won't ssh! Hoarse Voice—I tell you you will. Oh, if he wasn't in the room outside wouldn't I just give you——! The friend, shouting through the keyhole—I ain't any longer; give it to her!

"I WISH I were you about two hours," she said to her husband, with great tenderness. "And why, my dear?" he asked. "Because," she said, toying affectionately with his watch chain—"because then I would buy my wife a new bonnet."

A ST. LOUIS paper says: "When a Chicago preacher wants a new church all his own and a big congregation, he has himself convicted of heresy."

THEODORE remarked, when Angelina's father shoved him off the doorstep, that the old gentleman had considerable push about him.