USEFUL AND SUGGESTIVE.

—Turpentine will stop a felon, if applied plentifully and in the beginning.

—In France, when vinegar is to be made, clean barrels are rinsed with old vinegar before the new substance is put in. The rinsing is said to make vinegar in about half the time required without this practice.

—Graham Meal Griddle Cakes: Three tablespoons yeast, two cups Graham flour, one cup of wheat flour, mix at bedtime with warm water or milk—they should be quite thin; set where it will keep warm; bake on a griddle for breakfast. They must be well cooked.

—If a small piece of sulphur is occasionally thrown upon the fire in the smoke-house it will effectually prevent skippers and bugs from making inroads upon the meat; nor will it produce any effect upon its flavor, save on the mere surface or skin.

—Mrs. Jane Swisshelm says: "Dressed as women generally are, the less exercise they take the better for health. In fact, they are seldom fit to stand erect or walk a block, but should be rolled around on a sofa or carried on a palanquin. Not one woman in ten thousand has room inside her clothes for the rise and fall of the ribs in breathing; not one in ten thousand whose vital organs are not displaced by external pressure, and while this is so, the less exercise the better."

—It is said that German experimenters have successfully applied electricity to bees when they were swarming. By the use of electric force the bees were stupefied for the period of time needful to handle them, and without being injured. The first attempt was made upon bees that had gathered upon trees, the insects falling upon the ground in a kind of trance, which admitted of their being safely handled. A hive full was next treated in the same manner, and with equal success, the bees remaining inactive for half an hour, with no bad results.

—There is an insect (moth or not) which eats paper on the wall, usually in old houses, for the paste. The remedy is, the next time the wall is papered, to wash it well with something that will not be healthy for the insects—taking off the old paper. It is not wholesome for those who live in the room to have one paper over another. We heard of a house in London which had seven! It may do a little good to use insect-powder, blowing it under the edges with a blower or with bellows, but the insects are very minute and live in the paste. The new paste should have some poison in it which the bugs will not like. Arsenic would be bad for those in the room—arsenic green is deadly in wall papers.—*Christian Union.*

Wearing Out Soils.

The question is under discussion in the East whether the soils of farming lands are wearing out. The Western farmer has not yet reached that stage when it is necessary, for present purposes, to give it serious attention. If the conclusions reached by Mr. George Geddes, of Fairmount, N. Y., are correct, no one need have any anxiety that his now productive fields will ever grow less. The result of Mr. Geddes' observations of more than half a century of grain-raising and mixed farming is that the lands of New York State, when properly managed, do fully sustain their fertility without other manures than may be produced on them by a proper rotation of crops, and a proper amount of farm stock to convert unsalable productions into manure, and give their cultivators a fair compensation for their labor and use of capital. He says that the census reports go to show—and he produces the figures—that the acerage yield of leading crops is increasing, though the total production of some of them may be less than it was many years ago. The reason of this is to be found in the competition of the new fields in the West, and in the more profitable crops that find markets near the place of their production. Gradually, the attempt to raise wheat, for instance, on soils not naturally adapted to it is abandoned, and dairying, or some other branch of farming, is substituted; while on the true wheat lands the yield per acre is increasing.

Mr. Geddes says that he had been many years raising wheat before he raised a bushel of barley; now there is raised more bushels of barley than of wheat. The average yield and average prices make an acre of wheat and an acre of barley of about equal value. But in comparing farming half a century ago with the farming of to-day, it is necessary to note, he says, that, whereas summer-fallowing was the nearly universal custom of the far-off past, farmers now raise a barley crop and they follow with wheat, sown on the barley stubble, thus harvesting two crops in the time once taken for the wheat crop alone, and with quite as large an average per acre of wheat as when they summer-fallowed. Gradually the districts producing wheat narrow, until the soils are reached that are made up of the things necessary to make a crop of wheat, after the forest manure has been exhausted. "There are men who say," says Mr. Geddes, "that unless we restore to the land, in some manner, as much fertility as we take away in our crops, we shall surely exhaust our soil, just as constant drawing checks against a fund in a bank, and no deposits made, will sooner or later find the fund all gone. This is a sort of abstract proposition that looks quite plausible, but in actual practice we see fields cropped for many years; and no manure put on that could in any wise equal the quantity of fertility carried off in the crops, and these fields are yielding constantly increasing crops."

Advantages of Sheep.

The following is an extract from a most sensible article contributed to an exchange by a Massachusetts farmer:

Sheep can be put out to pasture at least two weeks earlier in the spring, and can be kept out two or three weeks longer in the fall, than cows. Thus, for one-half of the year, their keeping costs merely nothing. Then, in the winter, if a young calf or colt is kept with the sheep, it will consume what the sheep leave, and do equally as well, or better, than if kept alone and waste a good share of its feed. There is still another advantage which sheep possess over cows, and which is very obvious to any one who has been acquainted for the last thirty-five or forty years with that part of this State west of the Connecticut River. Forty years ago sheep composed two-thirds of the whole stock kept. Flocks varied, of course, according to the size of the farm, but it was not uncommon to find from 200 to 500 sheep kept by a single farmer, and in some cases the flocks were up to 1,000 in number. Then the pastures were noted for productiveness, and were free from bushes and noxious weeds; the feed was sweet and plentiful. But the low price of wool, through foreign competition, and various other causes combined, brought about a change; and in towns where, in years gone by, sheep have been reckoned by thousands, now these useful animals can only be counted by scores. The result is, that pastures which were once noted for fertility have been grazed by cows, yarded nights, thus robbing the lands until they have become mere barren wastes, producing nothing for years but June grass, and now entirely overgrown with weeds and bushes, and in some instances a stunted growth of timber. This is the progress of deterioration which has occurred in the case of thousands of acres in Berkshire County, and thousands more are fast approaching the same result. Upon lands fed by sheep the droppings would be more evenly spread over the ground than they can be by any other domestic animal, and in particles so small as to be all or nearly all covered by the grasses and taken up by the soil, and not dried up by the sun and absorbed by the atmosphere, as is the case of the excrements of other cattle. The closeness with which sheep graze keeps down all weeds and bushes and forms a close and firm turf. It is not uncommon, even now, to find some old sheep pastures which have been turned to meadows and are among the most productive mowing lands. The amount of labor for working successfully a farm of any given size is decidedly in favor of sheep. These animals require very little attention except in the spring at shearing. They do not need stabling. Through the winter good, comfortable sheds, with yards attached, where they can get plenty of fresh air, is all they require. In fact, most persons who keep sheep are apt to keep them too warm in winter. In the case of a large flock shelter from the storm and wind is sufficient. Sheep will eat their feed cleaner and be healthier in the open air than in a barn cellar. The two most important requisites in the profitable wintering of sheep is to keep them dry and to give them plenty of fresh air.

Daniel Webster's Presence.

Perhaps no man ever lived that, quite apart from adventitious circumstances affecting him, such as accident of birth, or dignity of station, apart indeed from actual achievement of his own, by mere and pure force of inherent character and personality, so impressed the generation to which he belonged as did Daniel Webster. There was something almost supernatural about it. The adjectives by which he was customarily characterized, in the common and instinctive speech of the people, attributed a kind of divinity to the man. He was the "godlike Daniel" to his countrymen in general, who thus called him by a phrase which, with a certain semi-conscious humor in it racy of the national character, redeemed its own excess of veneration by a corrective dash of associated familiarity. But no less the educated men among his fellows were accustomed to employ in their own more scholarly way a similar language. To them, he was "Jove," a "descended god," a "demi-god," "the Olympian." If he went abroad, some Englishman said he "looked like a cathedral," or Sydney Smith, with irreverent homage to his Titan might, said he "was a steam-engine in breeches."

This imposing effect of Webster's personal presence was partly due to the remarkable physical mold in which he was cast. He was not gigantic in proportions, was not even greatly above the medium height; but somehow the beholder took from him an instantaneous and overwhelming impression of immense mass, weight, momentum—in one word, of power. He was always one of the sights of Boston, where his presence in the streets made the neighboring buildings look smaller. Men from the country, that did not know who it was, would stand to gaze at him. Of course, as soon as you were aware that a physical frame so magnificent was the abode of a moral and intellectual nature not unfit to inhabit it, the pleasurable inspiration of wonder and awe that you felt in beholding was more than doubled. But when, in addition, you could further assure yourself that this man was the great lawyer, the great statesman, the great orator, of his country and time, why, naturally, the enthusiasm of admiration and delight of which you were conscious in his presence became something extraordinary. —*W. C. Wilkinson, in the Century.*

—The University of Wisconsin has 401 students, 119 being special students.

"WHAT is the greatest charge on record?" asked the professor of history. And the absent-minded student answered: "Seventeen dollars for hack hire for self and girl for two hours."

MOSES HOW, ESQ., of Haverhill, Mass., strongly indorses St. Jacobs Oil for rheumatism, etc., from the observation of its effects in his factory as also in his own family—so we see from one of our Massachusetts exchanges.—*Bridgeport (Conn.) Standard.*

MISTRESS: "Bridget, I really can't allow you to receive your sweetheart in the kitchen any longer." Bridget: "Thank you, kindly, mum, but he's too bashful for the parlor."

UNDER the microscope a hair has rough edges like a rasp. No wonder then that a young man's mustache often tickles a girl's nose.—*Philadelphia Chronicle.*

HENS scratch up flower-beds only when they are barefooted. That's why women run out and "shoo" the hens to keep 'em from doing damage.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

ESCULAPIUS practiced medicine even when an infant, which gave rise to the song, "M. D. is the cradle."—*Cincinnati Saturday Night.*

THE Harvard students are like widows—they are always trying to take advantage of a fresh man.—*Texas Siftings.*

AN old sailor was observed to be always hanging about the door of a church when a marriage was taking place. He explained that he liked to see the tide going out.—*Cincinnati Saturday Night.*

"MAKE SOMEBODY GLAD," urges a recent poem. Hundreds of young men can comply with this request by simply bidding her good-night two or three hours earlier on Sunday nights.—*Norristown Herald.*

"WHERE did you dine yesterday, Fyed?" "Oh, at the kwub." "Good dinnah?" "Yasse, O, yasse; I dined on such a lovely pwimwose, with a gewanium for dessert. With those I dwunk in the delicious swagwance of a sweet and tendah wiolet." "How pwecious!" "Yasse, it was evah so uttahly soul-satisfying and supweme."

LOST the game: "But I pass," said a minister recently, in dismissing one theme of his subject to take up another. "Then I make it spades," yelled a man from the gallery, who was dreaming the happy hours away in an imaginary game of eucher. It is needless to say that he went out on the next deal, assisted by one of the deacons.—*Milwaukee Sentinel.*

MR. RAGBAG was only twenty-three when his eldest son was born. We remember the day well. We congratulated him. But he didn't seem very jolly. Not but what it was a fine boy, and Ragbag was wealthy, so a family was no burden to him. But he said: "Good Lord, old friend, just think of it! Here at the age of twenty-three I've got to begin setting a good example!"—*Boston Post.*

"THE muses kiss with lips of flame," says a recent poet of the new order. Then we are thankful that we are not courting any of the muses just now. We don't wish to have our best winter mustache burned off until later in the season.—*New Haven Register.*

AN affectionate mother, noticing her little daughter wipe her mouth with her dress sleeve, asked what her handkerchief was for, and received for answer: "It's to shake at the ladies in the street. That's what papa does with his."