A NEGLECTED INTEREST.

Because of the many duties indoors and out which take up the parents' time there is a tendency with the vast majority to pay slight heed to another interest of equal or greater importance, the district school. Of course it is taken for granted by school patrons, and is in most cases true, that a competent teacher has been hired who will conduct the work in a satisfactory manner, but this notwithstanding it is better from the standpoint of teacher, pupils and patron if the latter get into the habit when opportunity offers of visiting the schools in a helpful, friendly spirit with a view to encouraging the teacher and getting a first hand knowledge of conditions which prevail there. Were this done more generally by parents many serious misunderstandings might be avoided between themselves and teachers and a spirit of co-operation developed which would be beneficial from every point of view. Parents would understand better than they do the trials and vexations which the average teacher has to put up with, teachers would come to know their pupils better by being acquainted with the parents, while pupils would realize that an understanding existed between teacher and parents would make it impossible for them were they so inclined to distort or misrepresent incidents or conditions existing in the school. In the event that the teacher was seriously at fault in her methods of government or really incapable the knowledge that patrons would get from visiting the school frequently would enable them to take such action as would be just and fair to all concerned.

A COMMON AILMENT.

A quite common ailment with horses which have been at hard and steady work through the summer months and of a sudden are given a spell of leisure between harvest and husking without an accompanying reduction in their food ration is a "stocking" of the legs—sometimes the front, but more commonly the hind. This seems to be due to a sort of congestion which takes place in the system, resulting in serious kidney and urinal disturbances. In such cases about the only thing to be done is to radically change the diet, cutting out the tame (especially clover) hay if it has been fed and substituting bran in the place of corn, giving laxative medicines which will tend to loosen up and clean out the system. Turning horses affected in this manner out to pasture is an excellent idea, as they get needed exercise, which will tend to reduce the swelling of the limbs, while the grass will be an excellent corrective of internal conditions. A bovine will suffer no ill from eating an excess of rich foods, but it is different with the horse.

THE BEST REMEDY.

While there is much about the subject of tuberculosis that is not yet known, enough has been learned to prove beyond doubt that the malady is in many cases induced or aggravated by the close confinement of human beings and animals in stuffy and ill ventilated houses and stables. Pure fresh air, which may be had for the breathing, is nature's great antitoxin for pulmonary complaints, and thousands of cases of the malady have been permanently cured through the patients being in the open every possible moment of their waking and sleeping hours. Time was when there was a class of people who were as afraid as death of pure fresh air and would as soon think of exposing themselves to a contagious disease as leave a window up in the sleeping room. While a person of this type may be found here and there, the class is rapidly diminishing, the fear of fresh air being a relic of bygone times that should be dispensed with along with cupping, bleeding and cauterizing with hot irons.

WINTER CHEER.

The winter season is pre-eminently the period of the supremacy of the good cheer and enjoyment of the life of the family circle; hence anything that can be done to make it brighter or more wholesome through the purchase of games, good books and magazines and music in various forms is justifiable and praiseworthy from the very highest standard of essential. It is of infinitely more importance—this making of the fireside helpful and happy for the growing boys and girls—than the breeding of this or that strain of blooded stock or the mixing of balanced rations for milk and beef production. A fine home, with all its uplifting and molding influence, is the greatest and most vital asset which this country possesses today, and for this reason everything possible should be done by all members of the home circle to make this as effective an influence as it is possible for it to be.

Good blood tells in both folks and animals, and there should be an effort to have just as much of it in both as possible.

A rather strong solution of lye poured through the sink will clean the grease out of the pipes, doing the job more quickly and effectively than in any other way.

That mother exhibits a standard of values badly out of whack who prays and labors for the conversion of the heathen in foreign lands, yet allows her own boys and girls to gad about the streets or neighborhood at will nights after they should be abed.

A good thickness of straw scattered over the ground in the feed yard will not only prevent the making of a mire in a wet time, but will provide an absorbent for the liquid manures which would otherwise leach into the ground and thus be wasted. We have known of this being done in a number of cases and with very satisfactory results.

The canna bulbs should be kept in moist sand in the cellar until the latter part of February, when it is well to remove them to pots and keep them at a rather low temperature for several weeks, so as to retard the growth until within a reasonable time from transplanting, which may be done without danger from frost by the middle of May.

Some one has said that genius is one-tenth inspiration and nine-tenths perspiration. This is doubtless overdrawn, yet expresses a truth that is quite often overlooked in our judgments in cases of success and failure. Inquiry into the careers of men who have been successful in their callings shows that luck and chance play an insignificant part, while energy and application have been most important factors.

Not long ago some one in the employ of the agricultural department at Washington had a good word to say for the common skunk as a useful animal in nature's economy. Since then the Michigan experiment station directors have discovered that the stink bug is a very vigorous enemy of the potato larvae. In view of these discoveries there would seem to be some hope for some of the other seemingly unnecessary bugs or beasts in the natural realm.

Reports made public by the management show that $500,000,000 worth of diamonds have already been taken from the mines at Kimberley, South Africa, and this is thought to be only a good beginning. The value of all of the mines of the earth pales into insignificance when compared with that of the grains, grasses, fruits and fibers which are annually grown upon its surface, while those who toil in dimly lighted shafts are but a handful to those who till the soil.

At intervals during the past few years reports have been given circulation by none too careful writers that samples of artificial comb honey were being offered for sale on the market here and there. With a view to offsetting the injury which the spreading of these reports might do producers of genuine comb honey, the National Beekeepers' association has a standing offer of $1,000 which will be given to the person furnishing a single comb of artificial honey or a comb of honey which has been drained and refilled with glucose or other concoction.

The burning of litter or manure in field or garden is wrong in principle in that it robs the soil of just that amount of humus or decaying vegetable matter which tends to keep it loose and in the best condition to handle. In case this supply of humus becomes deficient it means in the end a hard and resisting condition of soil that is objectionable from every point of view. On this account any plan which has in view an increasing of the supply of the soil humus is commendable.

In a trip in almost any section of the country it is quite remarkable how many inferior, runty and unprepossessing sires one will see at the head of herds of cattle, having apparently few points of merit for either beef or dairy purposes. Men who will put up with this state of affairs are not only falling down when it comes to the money end of farming, but miss the pleasure to be had in raising a higher grade of stock. There is something radically wrong with the man who is content to raise scrubs when he could just as well raise something better.

Before long it will be time to cover the tender things for winter, including the rosebushes, pansies and other plants that may be left out of doors. In doing this the important thing to remember is not that the covering is put on to keep things warm so much as to furnish a shade from the rays of the sun to prevent the alternate thawing and freezing which are bound to take place in the varying temperatures of the winter months. For the rosebushes nothing is better than laying them down and covering them with boards or an old door. If these are not available, cornstalks, leaves or other coarse litter will do. The finer it is the greater is the likelihood that it may become a harbor for mice, which may girdle the bushes if they get very hungry. While the pansies are quite hardy, it is well to give them a similar covering. Old pieces of carpet or matting may be used for this.

It is said that pieces of meat placed just beneath the surface of the earth in the pot with the sword fern or palm will provide a fertilizer which is quickly utilized.

There is a vast difference between a house and a home. Wall paper, carpets and furniture may be found in the former, but it takes wholesale, sincere and warm hearted folks to furnish the latter.

It is not necessary to cover the strawberry bed until the ground freezes solid the latter part of November. When this takes place it should be covered with four or five inches of clean oat straw, coarse hay or cornstalks.

While methods mean much in achieving success in any given line, it is, after all, the personality and force of the man who uses the method which are of most account. It is this personal element which is often overlooked, yet which accounts for success in one instance and failure in another.

Barring the purpose which a small bunch of willow trees along a fence row may serve as a shade for stock, there would seem to be mighty little excuse for this tree anywhere on the farm. It is slovenly and ungainly, harbors worms and breeds mudholes, having little to commend it either from the practical or aesthetic point of view.

A recent order of President Roosevelt has set aside 70,000 acres of land close to the Oregon-California line as a reservation for the propagation and protection of native birds. This reserve is to include all land not suitable for agricultural purposes. The land comprised in the order is considered to be the greatest breeding place in the world for waterfowl.

A number of sections in the north central states that in the early days raised considerable wheat and later oats and corn are now having a measure of success in the raising of winter wheat. In spite of this fact, not much can be expected from it, as a continuance in it without the observance of a proper system of crop rotation can in the end mean only soil depletion and impoverishment.

September of this year gave a foretaste of drought conditions which might easily recur earlier in the season next year if, as some have prophesied, we are just entering upon a cycle of seven dry years. If this should be the case, there will be a whole lot of folks who have settled down in the buffalo grass country who will want to be leaving for greener fields by the middle of next July.

It is estimated that 21,000,000 cows are milked daily in the United States. They yield on an average 3,500 pounds of milk a year, which makes the annual total output 70,000,000,000 pounds. Of this milk a little more than one-half is consumed in making butter, 3,000,000,000 pounds are used in making cheese, 1,000,000,000 for condensed milk, while the rest is sold as cream, fed to calves or drunk as a beverage.

A short time ago a Wisconsin farmer had his herd of dairy cows infected with a serious contagious disease as a result of importing from a distance cattle which were contaminated, a fact he was not aware of until several months had elapsed. Too great care can hardly be exercised in this matter along the line of insisting on a guarantee that animals bought are free from taint of disease of every kind.

One of the live problems which will come up this winter for earnest discussion by those who are interested in a conservation of our forest resources is some more effective method of preventing and controlling the spread of forest fires, which have left hundreds of thousands of acres of forest lands bare and black and thousands of people penniless and homeless. The federal government has in force an effective system of patrols, and it would seem expedient if the same oversight could be extended to embrace all forest areas.

A man can be strictly honest and yet be so mighty small and pleayunish in his dealings with his neighbors and family that he will not rate much higher in the respect of his neighbors than the boss scamp of the community. Honesty is a good deal like many of the things which we eat—needs trimmings. There is a lot of good behind the old Biblical admonition as to the gospel measure—liberal, generous, "pressed down and running over." Men who deal on this basis always have lots of friends and get good measure in return.

The day is fast going by when it is held by any considerable number that the dunderpate who makes a fizzle at everything else he dabbles in can achieve any great distinction as a tiller of the soil. With land values and rental rates constantly advancing a definite as well as considerable amount of brains and energy are needed in agricultural pursuits, and he will achieve the largest measure of success who makes the most careful and most intelligent study of the problems which confront him. There may be a niche somewhere which a stupid and shiftless man may fill, but he should not embark in agriculture with the idea that this is his destined field.

F. E. Trigg

Bucolic Humor.

"Hiram, why don't you speak to that city gal out there a-sittin' on the grass with her back up agin your 'No Trespassing' sign?"

"Mandy, that young woman is beneath my notice."—Boston Transcript.

But Not the "One."

Mrs. Hoyle—My husband had $100,000 when I married him. Mrs. Doyle—How much has he now? Mrs. Hoyle—Oh, he has most of the ciphers left!—Bohemian.