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Value of the Smelling Faculty

In Sir W. Temple's essay on "Health and Long Life," he says:—

"Fumigation, or the use of scents, is not, that I know of, at all practiced in our modern physic, nor the power and virtues of scents considered among us, yet they may have as much power to do good, for ought I know, as harm, and contribute to health as well as disease, which is too much felt by experience in all that are infectious, and by the operation of some poisons that are received by the smell. How reviving, as well as pleasing, some scents of herbs and flowers are, is obvious to all; how great virtues they may have in diseases, especially of the head, is known to few, but may easily be conjectured by any thinking man.

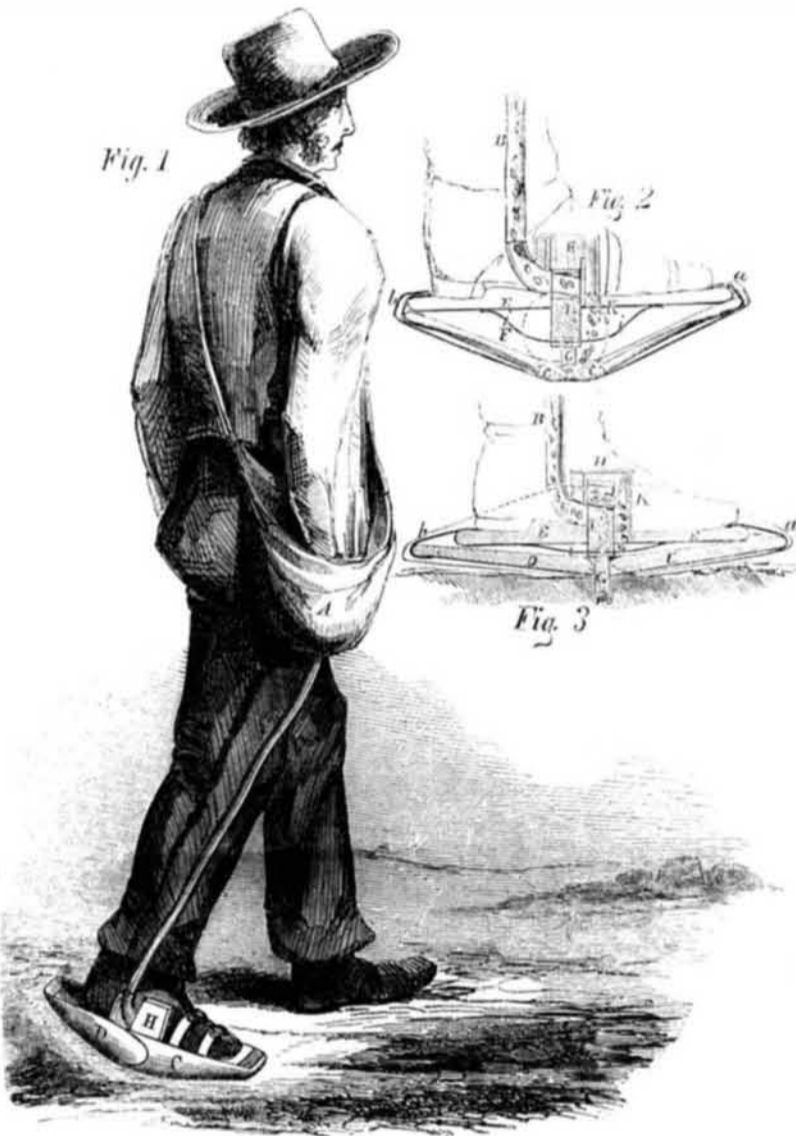
I remember that, walking in a long gallery of the Indian House of Amsterdam, where vast quantities of mace, cloves, and nutmegs were kept in great open chests all along one side of the room. I found something so reviving by the perfumed air, that I took notice of it to the company with me, numbering many persons, and they all were sensible of the same effect, which is enough to show the power of smells, and their operations both upon the health and humor."

Of our five senses, that of smelling has been treated with comparative indifference. However, as knowledge progresses, the various faculties with which the Creator has thought proper in his wisdom to endow man will become developed, and the faculty of smelling will meet with his share of tuition as well as sight, hearing, touch, and taste.

St. Paul tells the Corinthians, "that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice in it; nay, much more those members which seem to be more feeble are necessary. If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were an ear, where were the smelling?" These arguments appear so conclusive in favor of a just and proper estimation of the value of smelling, that it would seem impossible to neglect it without bodily suffering as a consequence.

Practically, the author has always found it so. Among the lower orders, bad smells are little heeded; in fact, "noses have they, but they smell not;" and the result is, a continuance to live in an atmosphere laden with poisonous odors, whereas, any one with the least power of smelling retained, shuns such odors, as they would any other thing that is vile or pernicious. In the public schools "common things" are now being taught; to complete the idea, youth must be instructed that when the nose is offended, the body will indirectly suffer. If they are not taught to know by name every odor that they smell, they can at least be made familiar with the deadly effects of sulphuretted hydrogen, and others of the putrescent gases, and so avoid them in future life.—[Piesse's Art of Perfumery.

FOOT CORN PLANTER.



Although this is not the season for planting corn, or conducting agricultural operations in the field, it is perhaps the most important period of the year for agriculturists to lay out their plans, and provide the implements, tools, &c., for their next season's labor. This is one reason why we deem the illustrated descriptions of agricultural machines in our columns to be very useful at the present time.

The accompanying figures illustrate the Foot Corn-Planter of G. A. Meacham, of this city.

Figure 1 shows its application in planting corn or seeds. Fig. 2 is a vertical section, showing the position of the parts of the planter, when the foot of the operator is raised; and fig. 3 is a section of the planter, showing its position when the foot is pressed down, and pressing the cam into the soil. Similar letters refer to like parts.

This small, neat corn-planter is buckled on the foot. The operator carries the corn for planting in a small bag, A, suspended from his shoulder; the planter is connected to this bag by an elastic tube, B, through which the corn or seed is conveyed. D C, in fig. 1, represent two outside slips of metal to protect the bottom part, but we will refer to these letters as placed on figs. 2 and 3, representing inclined pieces of wood divided at the middle, but attached there by strips of elastic cloth, e c, fig. 2—one at each side—to allow them to close and open to permit the covering piston to pass between them. These two pieces, D C, are also attached at the heel and toe to the sole piece, E, by strips, a b, of elastic cloth. The two inclined pieces, C D, and the sole piece, E, when the foot is not pressed down,

as in fig. 2, are so arranged as to form a chamber or space, F, between them. To the sole piece is fastened a piston or seed coverer, G, made of a square piece of wood, the object of which is to bury the corn or seed in the ground at every step, when the foot is pressed down, as in fig. 3.

A small metal box, H, is secured in the sole piece, E, at one side. In this works a small conveyor or plunger, I, secured to a flat bow spring, i i, the tension of which is downwards; this spring is attached to the under side of the sole piece.

The corn passes down the tube, B, and enters the small box, H, which has a small top chamber, with a hinged inclined bottom; it measures the exact number or quantity of kernels of corn or seed to be admitted to a hill. When the right foot of the operator is raised to make a step, as in fig. 2, the corn has free access to the chamber in H, because the spring, i holds the plunger, I, down. When the foot is down on the ground, as in fig. 3, to press the corn in the ground by piston G, being forced down between the pieces, C D, which are thrust open; the plunger, I, is then pressed upwards, and its inclined hinged bottom forces upward and forward the corn for the next hill through a hole in the box, thence down a channel, K, through the foot piece, E, into the chamber, F, as shown in fig. 2. When the foot is lifted for the next step, the piston, G, is withdrawn through the opening in the middle, between C D, and the corn for the next hill settles below the piston in the center, as shown in fig. 2, therefore, when the foot is pressed down to plant the next hill, the piston, G, carries the corn before it, thrusting it into the soil, as represented in fig. 3; and so

on successively until the whole field is planted by the operator simply walking over it.

The weight of the operator coming upon his foot, does all the work, and a field of corn is thus planted as fast as a man can walk, and in perfect squares, when the fields is laid out for cultivating it by plowing both ways, avoiding hoeing. It is thus well adapted for the western and southern country, where there are such large corn fields. Horse-power planters cannot plant so accurately in squares. This foot planter is simple and strong, and we are informed that it is not liable to get out of repair. From its simplicity it can be manufactured very cheap, and it is so small and compact, that it may be carried in the pocket of a man's coat.

A patent was issued for it on the 10th of June last. More information respecting it may be obtained by letter addressed to the patentee, Geo. A. Meacham, No. 290 (office 13) Broadway, this city.

Curious Effect upon the Telegraph Wires.

During the greatest intensity of the snow storm on Sunday night, the electrical effect on the wires of the magnetic telegraph, in the office at Chestnut street, near Third, was curious and striking. There was a continual snapping, cracking and flashing, like the noise when wood is burning briskly. At one place, on a covered wire, the stream of electricity suddenly appeared about the size of the flame from an ordinary gas burner, and continued to burn just like a gas light for more than five minutes. On examining the wire, it was found that half an inch of the covering was burned off it and the wire beneath it, with which it was in contact. A correspondent calls our attention to similar electrical indications observed elsewhere. He says his brother, who was on a visit at a friend's house, in the western part of Green street, observed that on approaching the gas fixture and the register belonging to the heater, a spark of electricity was received, with a shock severe enough to be unpleasant. It was noticed that the same effect was produced by applying the knuckles to some persons in the house; they appeared to be charged with electricity. He communicates the fact for the purpose of calling the attention of electricians to the subject.—[Philadelphia Ledger.

The Atlantic Telegraph.

A bill passed the Senate on the 22d, appropriating \$70,000 for the conveyance of messages on the Atlantic telegraph. This is a law forming a contract with the Telegraph Company to carry messages upon the same conditions as the contract entered into with the British Government. The contract is as follows:—

"The British Government shall have a priority in the conveyance of their messages over all others, subject to the exception only of the Government of the United States, in the event of their entering into an arrangement with the Company similar in principle to that of the British Government; in which case the messages of the two Governments shall have priority in the order in which they arrive at the stations."

French Undulating Railroad.

A railroad is proposed to be constructed near Lyons, France, on steep gradients, with a view to avoid deep cuttings and embankments or tunnels, and to test a new system of carriage invented by M. Bourget, civil engineer, for working it. A break placed under the carriage holds on to a third rail when the train stops, but when in motion the part which seizes on the rail opens by the effect of the onward movement, and closes, with great force, the moment the train ceases to go forward.