WHAT SAY THE TREES.

What say the trees to each other,
As the fierce, cold wind whistles past?
Do they call for father or mother,
Or hide them away from the blast?

Are they whispering to each other
When they shake their bright leaves and nod?
Do they talk to sister and brother
Through the gentle breezes of God?

Do they sigh because they are lonely
And shiver because they are cold?
Or is it because they are only
Desolate, cheerless and old?

Have they tho't, have they breath and feeling,
As we who are human do?
Have they wants to good appealing?
Do they die heart-broken, too?

The loss of some dear heart's treasure
Are they grieving, as we, when they moan?
For some fleeting, vanishing pleasure
Are they hiding their tears in a groan?

Are they angry when crisply and serely
They scatter their wasting leaves?
Do they gather and love them dearly,
The threads sad memory weaves?

Still waiting some happy morrow
Do they love through years, in vain?
Wasting out their lives in sorrow
Do they fade and droop in pain?

Oh silent trees! who shall show us
What passions your natures blend?
Who tell, of the things below us,
Where feelings begin or end?

Washington County Fair.

Through the politeness of Hon. E. Hunter, President of the D. A. and M. Society, we have been favored with the perusal of the official report, made to him by the President of the Washington County Agricultural Society, of the first annual exhibition held in that county, from which it appears that it was well attended and a lively interest taken in its proceedings. The articles on exhibition were numerous and diversified. In manufactures, the ladies' department attracted the most attention, and much skill and taste was manifested in the workmanship of many of the articles manufactured by them on display.

The agricultural products are reported to have been such as would compare favorably with those grown in other countries. Mr. J. W. Clark exhibited a cotton stalk with 307 bolls and forms on it. A large sunflower head three feet in circumference was shown, and many other large specimens of the productions of the soil in that county were exhibited, with beautiful peaches and fine grapes, for the production of which the climate in that region is said to be well adapted.

We have not space for the entire list of premiums awarded but select the following:

The best specimen of tobacco was exhibited by John Mangun, and the 2d best by John M. Adair; best wine, W. E. Dodge; best grapes (Isabella), W. E. Dodge; best peaches, Zadoc Judd; 2d best, Samuel Adair; 3d best, Jacob Hamblin; best sugar, J. T. Willis; 2d best, James Richey; best egg plant, W. E. Dodge; best sweet potatoes, J. D. Allen, and the 2d best, W. E. Dodge.

Report of the Committee on Cotton and Tobacco.

The list of premiums awarded at the Fifth Annual Exhibition of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society, published in our last issue, was incomplete, as the report of the awarding committee on cotton and tobacco had not then been received. The President of the society, Hon. Edward Hunter, has since furnished us with the following report of said committee, which we take pleasure in publishing, assuring our readers that it was not the fault of the officers of the society that it was so long in coming to hand. The awards were made in Washington, some three hundred miles south of Great Salt Lake City, between which and this part of the Territory there is only a semi-monthly mail.

Best 10 acres Cotton,	James D. McCullough	$30 00
Best 5 " "	Robert D. Covington	25.
Second best "	J. W. Clark	15.
Third best "	T. W. Smith	10.
Best 2 acres "	W. C. Smithson	20.
Second " "	A. W. Collins	15.
Third " "	Charles Stapley, sen.	10.
Fourth " "	William Young	5.
Fifth " "	J. T. Willis	Dip
Best 1 acre Cotton	William Crosby	15.
Second 1 " "	J. T. Willis	10.
Third 1 " "	Christopher Jacobs	8.
Fourth 1 " "	S. E. Johnson	6.
Fifth 1 " "	W. Aslem	Dip.
Best 1-2 " "	J. D. Lee	10.
Second 1-2 " "	W. H. Crow	8.
Third 1-2 " "	Josiah Reeves	6.
Fourth 1-2 " "	Zedock K. Judd	4.
Fifth 1-2 " "	Volentine Carson	Dip.
Best Patch Tobacco	James Richey	
Second " "	John M. Adair	

Covering Meadow Lands with Straw.

Covering old lea with the straw that is useless, as fodder, and folding sheep over it, is a very old-fashioned but most economical way of making a good manure for the wheat crop. We cannot call it farmyard manure, but it is the nearest approach to it, and may be spoken of under the same head.

This covering of straw is usually laid on during the winter or early spring, when other operations cannot be carried on. It is during the summer months that the greatest advantages are derived from it; not in its causing the more rapid growth of grass only, but thro' its causing the formation of nitrates in the soil.

There are few farmers that have not noticed the luxuriant vegetation that grows on land that has been occupied by a hay or corn rick the preceeding year. Now we naturally inquire the cause of such vigorous growth.—It cannot be rest only, as the land that was not cultivated through its close proximity to the rick does not grow such rank vegetation. Then it must be the covering, which so alters both the mechanical and chemical state of the soil, and prepares it for, and causes the benefit derived by, the plants. This fertility becomes more apparent where the rick has stood during the summer months.

Now, the covering of the old lea with straw has the same chemical and mechanical effect, only in a less degree, as was produced by the hay rick. It has also the same effect as what has been termed "Gurneyism."

This term was used a few years ago to signify a covering of straw or other matter, on grass land, which was used by Mr. Gurney, and which was noticed by that gentleman to have a fertilizing effect. It was merely the covering which gave the good result in question, as was proved by the experiments of this gentleman. Mr. Gurney says:—"A piece of grass land has been covered during the day, from six o'clock in the morning to six at night and left uncovered during the night, for six weeks. Another piece lying adjoining had been covered by night and uncovered by day during the same period. The first piece, namely: that uncovered by night and covered by day, soon changed color, put on a deep green and rapidly increased in length; but the piece of grass covered by night and uncovered by day soon changed to a yellowish color and looked sickly and apparently dying."

The effect produced by the covering of this straw has been described as resulting from the formation of nitrate of lime in the soil If so, it is our cheapest means of increasing one of the most costly substances which we purchase in the manure market—nitrogen.

There is about 75 per cent. of nitrogen in the air we breathe, and Liebig has told us that there is enough in our soils for many rotations of crops. This being so, we ought to hail with delight any means by which we can cause it to become available for our crops.

If a thick covering of straw, which prevents the penetrating rays of the sun from acting on the soil, does contribute to the formation of nitrate of lime in the soil, it points out to us again the march that practice has got on science. I have laid on coverings of straw on various descriptions of land, and have invariably found that land that does not contain lime, and that would not effervesce with an acid, does receive little benefit from the application, but if laid on a soil that contains abundance of lime, vegetation springs up with that deep green which we see after the application of nitrates to our grass or corn crops. Nitrate of lime cannot be formed where no lime exists, and this might therefore be taken as a shadowy proof of what has been advanced.

Straw as a covering only causes a powerful chemical action on the fertilising substances of the soil, whether it is through the formation of nitrate of lime in the soil, or from any other cause. It is possible that it might also cause the decomposition of the vegetable matter in the soil and the excrementatious matter which is supposed to be thrown off by plants. Lime, I believe, performs this latter office. Plants (Sainfoin for instance) probably secrete organic acids, and partially organized matter that require to be neutralized or decomposed before the same description of plant can grow healthily on the same soil. Sainfoin does not require more lime than many other plants, yet it cannot be depended on soils that do not contain an abundance of lime. I think that this cause may be found in the action of lime on the secretions of the plant. This matter, which is thrown out by the plant during its continuous growth, might be of benefit to other plants but destructive to the plants that throw it off.

I now come to the manuring of meadows.—It is my practice to give my meadows a covering of straw annually. This is done immediately after the removal of the hay, or after the after-grass has been fed. I prefer the former time, as it prevents the parching effect of the sun, and adds much to the bulk of the crop, whilst the following crops are not diminished by this early application.

Now, I have one meadow that requires chalking. The earth does not effervesce with an acid, which it surely would if it contained any lime in its compesition. On this soil a covering of straw has not the slightest effect, except what is caused by enabling it better to retain moisture, and the effect produced in this way is scarcely apparent. This is the want of lime in the soil. But on the other meadows that contain an abundance of lime, the covering has the effect of causing a rapid and vigorous growth. The barren soils are thus made comparatively fertile. I cut double the weight of hay I should without the application. It is my conviction that I should cut little more were I to lay on the richest farmyard manure. I do not think that this effect could be produced without the action of nitrogen on the plants. If so, this covering must be a means of rendering the inactive nitrogen available.

But I fear that there is one little drawback to this treatment of our meadows. I allude to the herbage. It appears to me that this treatment causes the coarser varieties of grass to overpower and destroy some of the finer herbage. I do not state this as being a fact; I merely speak from observation without strict examination. I hope that it is not so, but that the starved plants which appeared to he finer varieties are only become stout fellows through being better fed and better cared for.

Another use to which waste straw can be applied with considerable benefit is to the turnip land. If laid on the stubbles and plowed in in the autumn it causes a beautiful tilth during the following spring and summer, and probably the gases that are generated during its decomposition act on and liberate many substances that would otherwise remain inactive.—[London Agricultural Gazette.

Winter Rules.

Never go to bed with cold or damp feet.

In going into a colder air, keep the mouth resolutely closed, that by compelling the air to pass circuitously through the nose and head, it may become warmer before it reaches the lungs and thus prevent those shocks and sudden chills which frequently end in pleurisy, pneumonia, and other serious forms of disease.

Never sleep with the head in the draft of an open door or window.

Let more cover be on the lower limbs than on the body. Have an extra covering within easy reach in case of a sudden and great change of weather during the night.

Never stand still a moment out of doors, especially at street corners after having walked even a short distance.

Never ride near the open window of a vehicle for a single half minute, especially if it has been preceded by a walk; valuable lives have thus been lost, or good health permanently destroyed.

Never put on a new boot or shoe in beginning a journey.

Never wear India rubbers in cold, dry weather.

If compelled to face a bitter cold wind, throw a silk handkerchief over the face; its agency is wonderful in modifying the cold.

Those who are easily chilled on going out of doors, should have some cotton batting attached to the vest or other garment, so as to protect the space between the shoulder blades behind, the lungs being attached to the body at that point; a little there is worth five times the amount over the chest in front.

Never sit for more than a minute at a time with the back against the fire or stove.

Avoid sitting against cushions in the backs of pews in churches; if the uncovered board feels cold, sit erect without touching it.

Never begin a journey until breakfast has been eaten.

Never speak under a hoarseness, especially if it requires an effort, or gives a hurting or a painful feeling, for it often results in a permanent loss of voice, or long life of invalidism.—[Hall's Journal of Health.

Salt and Fence Posts.—A correspondent of the New Hampshire *Journal of Agriculture* says:

I have just been to examine some that I set 30 or 31 years ago. I found them all sound and erect. That is, I tried every one of them, and found them to stand firm. They are white oak, about five and a half inches square, with the part set in the ground unshaved. After setting, I bored into each post about three inches above the ground, with a two-inch auger, at an angle of about 45 degrees, and filled the hole with salt, and plugged it up. The plugs are all in, and the posts look as sound as when set. I put in about one-half a pint of salt to a post. As I tried none without salt, I cannot say whether it was the salt or something else that preserved the posts.

A Horse with the Heaves.—We have heard of scores of remedies proposed for heaves. Ginger mixed with oats has been prescribed, and hundreds of horses have been killed by doses of spirits of turpentine in various quantities. Indeed, we know of very few things which have not been recommended in turn as a cure for heaves.

Prevention is always better than cure. A riddle in front of the cutting box, to let sand and dust out of cut feed, will be found advantageous. Steaming the food prevents the dust separating from the food when eaten, and materially ameliorates the disease. The use of carrots, however, is not only a preventive but a remedy. No horse will be troubled with heaves while carrots form part of his food.—[*Working Farmer.*

The Cattle Disease Caused by Immature Food.

There is an interesting article in the *Journal d' Agriculture Pratique*, from the pen of Gustave Hamoir, in which several facts are brought forward to show that cattle feeding on immature food are very liable to *pleuro-pneumonia*—the cattle disease which has caused such a panic during the present summer in Massachusetts.

He states that in seasons favorable to a rank growth of the sugar beet, and when, consequently, the beet is deficient in sugar, cattle fed on the pulp of the beets are subject to this disease. But he has found that if the pulp is steamed in such a way that the steam carries off the volatilematters—alcohol, acetic acid, and essential oils—it is then healthy food.

Several experiments are mentioned which seem to prove the truth of this idea.

There can be no doubt that immature food of any kind is unhealthy. The leaves of turnips, which analysis shows to contain a much larger percentage of nitrogen than the bulbs, are well known to be less nutritious than the bulbs, and have a tendency to cause scours in the sheep and cattle eating them. In Mr. Lawes' experiments on sheep, this fact was brought out in a very striking manner. Sheep fed on turnips manured with superphosphate of lime did well and gave a fair increase; while sheep fed on the same kind of turnips and grown in the same field, and fed out at the same time, but which were dressed with a large quantity of ammonia, not only did not increase in weight but actually lost in flesh, and were so evidently ill-fed that it was necessary to discontinue the experiment.—Analysis showed these turnips to contain a much higher percentage of nitrogen than those grown with the superphosphate of lime—in other words, they were deficient in carbonaceous matter. The ammonia caused them to continue growing late in the fall, and they were when gathered far from being perfectly matured.

Sugar beets, heavily dressed with ammoniacal manures, are well known to be deficient in sugar, and the manufacturers of beet-root sugar do not like excessively heavy crops.—M. Hamoir states that the years when the crops of beets were unusually heavy were the years when the cattle disease most prevailed, and we have no doubt it was caused by the beets being immature. We see no reason to doubt that immature grass, or that grown on low, wet land, would also be injurious.—[Genesee Farmer.

Pickling Onions.—A correspondent of the *American Agriculturist* wishes to know if all its lady readers know what fine pickles may be made of small onions, and says that "any variety will do, but the white or silver-skinned are the nicest. I use those from the size of a large pea to an inch or more in diameter, but prefer those about as large as a hickory-nut. I peel off the outer dark skin, and lay them in salt and water for from six to ten days, according to size, pouring off the brine and adding new every day. They are then put into a vessel, and scalding brine poured on, and covered up until cool, when one more similar scalding is given. This cooks them just enough. Then place them in jars, cover with vinegar, and set away.

The soaking in salt water removes the strong flavor, and after standing in the vinegar they are very fine, and will keep a long time. For variety, I put into a jar or two, ginger root, mace, cloves, etc. The friend who taught me this process, advised to pour in a little olive oil to float on the top of the vinegar in the jars when set away. This may help to keep mould off from the vinegar, but not liking the flavor of salad oil I have not tried it."

Transplanting Trees.—An exchange says if nurserymen would mark the north side before they were taken up, and when set out to have the tree put in the ground with its north side to the north in its natural position, a larger proportion would live. Ignoring this law of nature, is the cause of so many transplanted trees dying. If the north side is exposed to the south heat of the sun, especially in the Southern States, it is too great for that side of the tree to bear, and therefore it dries up and decays.

Making Land.—The city of Boston, Mass., is engaged in filling in some two hundred acres of swamp flats immediately west of the Common. The material for filling is brought seven miles on rail tracks, employing ten locomotives, one hundred cars, and an army of workmen. It is estimated that four years will be required to complete the work, and that the land thus made will be worth ten million dollars.

A Remedy for Smut in Wheat.—An Ohio farmer says that smut in wheat is caused by an insect which deposits the germ in the preceeding crop, and that there will be little or no smut in wheat when the seed sown has been kept over summer, as thereby the egg is destroyed. He asserts that by noticing carefully when the wheat is about half ripe, the smut grains will be found to be full of small insects.

Lac Varnish for Vines.—It is stated upon good authority that grape vines may be pruned at any period without danger from loss of bleeding, by simply covering the cut parts with varnish made by dissolving stick-lack in alcohol. The lac varnish soon dries and forms an impenetrable coat to rain; it may also be applied with advantage in coating the wounds of young trees.