GARDENERS' CALENDAR
FOR FEBRUARY.

[Written by an experienced gardener expressly for the *Bowral Free Press*.]

Kitchen Garden.—This is without exception one of the busiest months in the year in this district. For be it remembered that autumn and winter are fast approaching, and if you wish to get your kitchen garden well stocked you must do so quickly. Sow a good bed of the following seeds—shorthorn carrot, hollow crown parsnip, white stone turnip or golden ball, English drumhead cabbage, savory cabbage, St. John's Day cabbage, ox-heart cabbage, and early York cabbage; also Brussel's sprouts, winter spinach, beet root, garlick, eschalots, onions, and Spanish leeks. Plant out celery and cabbage of every discription; also cauliflower, onions, and leeks. Sweedish turnips will, if transplanted, bear good if not better than those kept in the bed. It is not too late for another sowing of French beans and early sunrise dwarf peas. Sow a good bed of parsley, and cut back sage and thyme. Sow a bed of lettuce-seed for planting out later on. Cucumbers, melons, pumpkins and tomatoes will grow very fast now after the splendid rain we have had, and they should be well attended to. Pinch them back when running too much to vine; stop the two joints in front of the fruit. Potato onions should be taken out of the ground now or they will start again into growth, and will not keep through the winter. Cease pulling rhubarb or you will weaken the crowns for next season's crop.

Orchard.—If summer pruning has not been done, the sooner it is done the better, especially in young orchards and those planted last year, for the trees will grow at a rapid rate now with the weather we are getting. Cut out all cross branches and those commonly called riders where they rub each other. Attend to propping up branches where heavily loaded with fruit with a strong stake; use old rags in the fork of the stake to prevent chafing the bark of the tree; old rags are softer than bark or grass. Keep strawberry beds free from weeds, and the surface of the soil loose; this will assist the young runners to root freely; where they are not required cut them off. Attend to cutting hawthorn hedges; you will see the benefit of this next year. Do not neglect to prepare the ground for next year's planting by trenching it and keeping it clean. Finish budding cherries, and get on with peaches, apricots, and plums. Apples may also be budded now. Pears will do well budded on the quince stock. Keep the soil loose about the trees, and the orchard free from weeds.

Flower Garden.—Dahlias will soon be in their glory, and should be attended to by staking and tying, for they will keep in bloom until the frost cuts them down. Summer annuals will feel the benefit of the late beautiful rain. Do not neglect to thin them out where they have been left too thick, for they will amply repay for the little trouble bestowed on them. A good bed of pansies should be sown for planting out. Chrysanthemums should be well cut back; prune them with the shears as you would a box tree or a laurel hedge into shape; they will then form a compact bush and flower more profusely. Bud roses; you can put six or eight or even ten sorts on one tree, chosing slow growers for this purpose. Finish laying out pinks, piccotees, and carnations. Keep the surface of the soil well loosened up with the Dutch hoe; do not rake it. If lawn tennis grounds have had a top dressing they will now feel the benefit of it; if they have not had it, the sooner it is done the better. Cut turf edgings, for it will cut easy now as it is soft, and will greatly add to the appearance of the garden. Give the lawns a good sweeping and rolling. Remove all dead flowers and keep down the weeds from the borders and gravel.

The Tobacco Fiend.

Mrs. C. J. H. Nichols, writing to the *Pacific Rural Press*, says:—"I have good reason for believing that more infants under twenty months old, especially in our large cities, die of blood poisoning from tobacco than any other known agency. I doubt if all agencies put together lay the foundation for more disease of the nervous system in adult life. To accomplish this havoc of infant life it is not necessary that the mothers smoke or chew, or "rub" like the Southern women. The pipes, cigars, and spittoons of the male members of the family and visitors, where nicer conventionalities do not forbid, are enough to destroy the health, if not the life, of the average infant.

I was once called by a distressed young mother to her little two-month-old baby. The appearances of the babe and the scent of the weed at once revealed the cause of its suffering. It was its third paroxysm in a course of tobacco poisoning. The mother was intelligent, and at once felt the force of my explanation. She, with her brother, two babies (the eldest a two-year-old), and two nurses, were occupying a suite of rooms, as summer boarders, in the country. The husband and father had come in the middle of their term to rest with them a few days, and every evening after tea the gentlemen had taken their cigars into the mother's sitting-room where the dear little baby lay in its mother's lap, while the three chatted or played whist, as the spirit moved them. But each evening's enjoyment had been cut short by the baby's sudden illness and frantic efforts for its relief, without in the least enlightning them as to the cause. I hardly need add that the cigars were sent out, the rooms disinfected, and the baby, after a few days of languor, was crowing as before.

From a very early age, and with the inheritance of a fine constitution, I suffered without knowing, or indeed questioning for the cause. I was often faint in a crowded assembly, and, to my great mortification, had to leave church even in cool weather if windows and doors were closed. As the years passed I was brought face to face with my tormentor. From a pew back of mine a breath—yea, three or four of them—laden with the life-destroying aroma, drove me with dizzy head and tottering step into the open air. Once the smoke from the drivers seat on a covered stage-sleigh laid me low at the feet of its other lady passenger. And yet, again, while the coach was waiting for a passenger before an hotel piazza on a court day, where half-a-dozen smokers were enjoying their after-dinner cigars, I was struck speechless, and my left arm so unnerved that for weeks my hand was nearly useless.

After years of questioning for the cause, as I have said, of this depression of vitality which non-sympathizers regarded as imaginary, I put this and that together, or rather, this and that came together with a rush of recognition, when the sensations caused by the tobacco smoke and breaths—agents preceptible to the senses—forced themselves on my observation as differing only in degree from those experienced in mixed assemblies. I say mixed assemblies, for in the rush of evidence I was confronted in the fact—hitherto unnoticed—that in a crowd where all, or nearly all, were women, I was exempt from this nervous depression. Very few women using the weed and never about the doors and ante-rooms in public places, while a large majority of men smoke or chew, and many of them do both, and keep or put quids in the mouths during services and proceedings. The nerves of an infant are more sensitive than a woman's and the nerves of a woman more sensitive than a man's. But while all persons, accustomed to use or contact of tobacco, lose more or less of the sensibility that admonishes them of its depressing presence, this acquired obtuseness is a very questionable blessing, since it must be gained at the expense of vitality available to resist disease and recuperate the physical powers in time of need. It is burglary and larceny of the precious life supplies of all non-consumers of the weed, whether leived in the public assembly, home, workshop, or street, for God created us for all a pure life-sustaining atmosphere, and to poison it is a crime against humanity at large.

In the year 1883, 17,000 infants under five years of age were sent to their last rest in a single New England city. Probable a majority of these occupied the same sleeping rooms, even beds with their parents. I am satisfied from observation and experience that tobacco is more destructive to health than acohol, and from its more general use, diffiusiveness, and masked effects, more to be dreaded. If it exhibited its devotees in like idiotic and belligerent moods, its use would be as generally opposed. But my present appeal is in behalf of helpless infancy to thoughtless fathers and equally thoughtless but suffering mothers. For more than half the weekness bewailed as peculiar to women, are at least cousin-german to this tobacco fiend.

Think of the babe sleeping under the same covers with its tobacco-saturated father, its lungs and delicate pores taking the poisioned atmosphere; think of the nursing mother breathing and absorbing the same tainted atmosphere, and is it matter for wonder that 17,000 infants died in 1883—die annually—in a single city? Health commissioners in several cities have within the last few years reported against the use of impure milk as an alarming cause of infantile disease, and within the year have discovered by the drinking of country cows of impure water, and occupancy of stables filled with impure exhalations, not only poisioned the milk for city babes, but bred sweeping disease among the adults in families using it. The entire exemption of neighbouring families, who took their milk from other dairy farms, furnished the clue, and the examination by the commission—the proofs of this fact.

I might close with adding that nursing mothers and babes should avoid contact with tobacco and its atmosphere by night and by day, and keep open doors and windows for health sake; but I feel in every fiber of my soul that the truer words are, "Touch not, taste not, handle not the unclean thing," all who value God's breath of life. Does any man ever think what a degradation of women it is to be spittoon cleaner? That's enough.

Bowral Cash Tailoring Establishment.

T. WILLIAMS,
TAILOR, &c.

LOOK AT THIS: Some people can do all their own work, but T. WILLIAMS the Tailor HAS TO EMPLOY HANDS.

The question is asked—"How is it that T.W. does such a trade?" The answer is simply this—"The Material he keeps is good, the Workmanship first-class, the Fit perfect, and the Price unequalled.

ALL CLOTHES THAT LEAVE HERE ARE MADE ON THE PREMISES.

507

J. JACOBIE,
PRACTICAL CUTTER AND TAILOR,
BERRIMA,

BEGS to announce that he will, on application by letter, ATTEND GENTLEMEN at their own residence, with upwards of 400 PATTERNS of the VERY BEST MATERIALS; and being now in a more comfortable position, with no expense whatever, is thus enabled to GIVE HIS CUSTOMERS THE BENEFIT of the high rents and other expenses BY REDUCING THE PRICES of all Garments.

Will Visit Bowral Regularly Every Wadnesday from 1 till 2 o'clock.

SUITS TO MEASURE FROM £3 : : : : : : TROUSERS FROM 15s.

N.B.—Goods taken in return for Orders from Storekeepers and Tradesmen.

545

FOR SALE,

KILMANTON, 1 mile from Mittagong Station, and 1½ mile from Bowral. The residence of G. O'Byrne. Particulars in Wednesday's and Saturday's Herald. 555

TO LET, MITTAGONG,

DESIRABLE RESIDENCE, **Eisenthal,** Stone, Shingled, 11 rooms, Kitchen and Servents' Rooms, 5-stalled Stable, and Garden. Apply Mr. EDWARDS, Storekeeper, Mittagong. 551

NOTICE.

J. JACOBIE, Tailor, begs to announce that on account of having shortly to have an operation to be performed on him has to remove to his private residence, Berrima, where all orders and accounts will be attended to. 560

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

TENDERS will be received at the Police Office, Moss Vale, until 10 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, 24th February, for following contracts:—

Contract No. 1 O—Road Moss Vale to Jamberoo;
Contract No. 2 O—Road Bowral via Alcorn's to Robertson;
Contract No. 3 O—Road Fitzroy Iron Mines to Bowral.

Specifications at the Police Court, Moss Vale.
All tenders to be addressed to the Clerk of Petty Sessions, Moss Vale, and to be endorsed on cover, "Tender for Road."

A. WEBER,
Superintendent of Roads.

February 12, 1884. 552

NOTICE.

ALL Persons liable to assessment under the Pastures and Stock Protection Act for the district of Berrima who are in arrears are requested to forward the same to the Secretary forthwith to prevent further trouble.

W. J. CORDEAUX,
Chairman.

559

BOWRAL—FOR SALE,

NEW BRICK COTTAGE, 6 rooms, with Verandah round, hall, washhouse, and bath-room; water laid on. 6 acres LAND; Fruit-trees. 1½ mile from station, fronting Merrigang-road. Also WEATHERBOARD COTTAGE detached. Inquire of J. G. MORRIS, Bowral, or J. HODGSON on the premises. 503

NOTICE.

D. McGregor,
PLUMBER, &c., MOSS VALE,

BEGS to inform the Inhabitants of Mittagong and surrounding District that he has opened a Branch Establishment at

MITTAGONG,

adjoining Mr. Ruane's Store, where all orders may be left if Plumber's Shop is closed.

Guttering, Down Pipes, Ridging, &c., in stock.
Force and Lift Pumps supplied and fitted up.
Baths and Tanks made to order at Sydney prices.

☞ All orders promptly attended to, and work guaranteed. 292

R. Aitken and Co.,
PLUMBERS
AND
GALVANIZED IRON WORKERS.

Manufacturers of H.R. and O.G. Spouting, Ridge Capping, Down Pipes, Galvanised Iron Tanks, Baths, &c., &c., &c.

Estimates given for all kinds of Plumbers' and Galvanized Iron Work.

Verandah Iron curved to any required sweep.

A full Supply of all kinds of Materials always on hand.

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