

important operation of draining, as the foundation of all good farming. It was useless to put tons of manure on land that was not dry; in that case it would only float upon the surface, for wet clay could not allow it to go down—it was almost entirely thrown away. Draining rendered the land penetrable by water, and enabled the rain to descend freely through it, carrying to the roots those fertilizing elements of carbonic acid and ammonia with which rain-water was always charged. Carbonic acid was continually supplied to the air from chimneys, and from putrefying animal and vegetable substances, also from the breath expired from the lungs of animals, and a hundred other sources; it floated in the atmosphere in a gaseous form, and was brought down again by rain. Falling upon drained land, this rain penetrated its surface, and, as he had just said, carried with it to the roots of plants, two of their greatest elements of fertility.

It was the lauded proprietors' and the farmers' incumbent duty to increase the fertility of the soil, because the soil alone afforded the food which it was our business to provide for ourselves and families. Fifty years ago, Parliament had given a premium for draining to Mr. Elkington; and his system, where it was applicable, had answered the required purpose; but it was not applicable so generally as newer systems, for the publication of which the country was mainly indebted to Mr. Smith, of Deanston. He remembered, when returning from Scotland after visiting Mr. Smith's farm at Deanston four years ago, being taken by Sir Robert Peel into a field of his near Tamworth, which was almost swamped with water, and nearly unproductive. He advised Sir Robert to drain it after the manner of Mr. Smith, which he forthwith did, and the result was in the very first year a splendid crop of turnips, and the second year a crop of barley so luxuriant that the stalks could not support the ears, and fell prostrate to the ground. The expenses were repaid in two years, and this worthless field was now a most profitable piece of land. The Rev. Doctor then mentioned another instance of the effect of drainage near Wolverhampton, in Staffordshire, by Lord Hatherton. His lordship had reclaimed a wild tract of 1,500 acres adjoining Cannock Chase, on lands higher than those in East Devon, and had increased its value from 5s. to 25s. per acre. After impressing thus forcibly the importance of draining, as the first step in agricultural improvement, the learned Professor proceeded to remark on the application of manures.

BALL TO LUNATICS.

We have no predilection for Balls; and there are many who conscientiously believe that none but a species of Lunatics attend them. Experience has shown sufficiently that the moral tendency of Balls is not of the highest order. The Ball of which we now speak was got up from higher motives than those which generally set Balls in motion. It was done with the view of rousing the dormant energies of some of the inmates of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum. The same means have been tried with good effects in similar institutions in Europe and the United States. It is not the exercise of dancing that is depended on, but the introduction of the inmates to the company of others, the revival of old associations, and the sympathy and meeting of assembled friends.

About fifty of the patients in the most fit state assembled in a large room in the Parliament Buildings, on the evening of Thursday week, at seven o'clock. A large company was invited to meet them. The dancing was kept up with great spirit till half-past nine. The strangers and inmates were mixed up together. We understand that some were roused to take part in the preparations for this occasion, when every other effort had failed, and that the results have been of the most gratifying kind. Still there is a difficulty in getting over the idea of such employment by people in their circumstances, and if the same purpose could be accomplished by a tea party, it appears more desirable. But this raises a question only to be determined by the experience of medical men, and all feelings ought to give way to promote the cure of the patients.

It is gratifying to reflect that this great Provincial Institution is under the control of one so skilful and attentive to his patients, and so beloved by them, as Dr. Telfer is. He has thoroughly studied the subject. What a change from the old system, which never looked beyond confining the poor patients within the limits of their cells.—*Banner.*

ROMAN HOMICIDES.

Some English gentlemen were standing conversing together at the door of a reading-room in the *Piazza di Spagna*. This *Piazza*, I must state, is a somewhat large square, and next to the *Corso*, the principal street, the most frequented and public part of Rome. On one side of it is a flight of stone steps leading up to the *Pinician Hill*, very similar to the steps near the Duke of York's column in our St James' Park, and a great thoroughfare. The hour was between one and two o'clock in the afternoon. Two men passed these gentlemen, crossed the *Piazza*, and met at the bottom of the steps I have referred to, a young, and apparently respectable female. They stood conversing with her for a few seconds, and then they together drew forth their stilettoes, and, in an instant, plunged them into her. The woman shrieked, ran

forward a few yards, fell, and expired. The men coolly and deliberately wiped their weapons, deposited them in their pockets, and arm in arm walked away. The Englishmen were in a moment with the fallen woman, and called out to the bystanders to secure the men. No heed was taken of their call, and at the expiration of a few minutes, a tradesman in the *Piazza* left his shop, came up to them, and advised them to leave the body. The police, he said, would probably soon be there, and they might be involved in trouble and inconvenience if they were the only persons found near it. Midway up the steps, and consequently within a few yards of this atrocious deed, an armed sentinel was as usual walking. He saw the transaction, never moved from his beat to seize the men or help the woman, and when remonstrated with by the indignant Englishmen, coolly replied that "he had nothing to do with such matters; he was a soldier, and not a policeman." I have still to add, that these murderers were the husband and brother of the slaughtered victim. The act brought no punishment on them, and as far as I could perceive, no odium. The only feeling among their countrymen appeared to be, that they had made a little too much of a trifle. It appeared that the woman had just before been discovered to have frequented a sculptor's studio as a model. The husband forbade this, as well he might, and threatened her with death, if it were persisted in. She was returning from the sculptor's at this time. Her own brother had joined with her husband in waylaying her and taking on her this fearful vengeance. "What a high value must exist in Rome," the reader may say, "for female delicacy and virtue!" Alas! there is no civilised spot perhaps on the face of the earth where these things are more lightly esteemed. What really actuated these young men, I am unable to say. I relate only their atrocious deed. One circumstance more I will mention. Entering one of the churches in Rome, to see some admired painting, I observed a number of stilettoes, or small poignards, stuck like a frame round a large representation of the Virgin, above an altar. I inquired of one of the officers of the church what these meant. His answer was this, "Persons who have been so unfortunate as to kill any one, frequently come to this church to confess, and our priests will never give them absolution till they have delivered up the instrument with which the deed was committed. It is always a part of the penance enjoined on them by the priests." "Am I then to understand that every poignard there has taken away the life of a human being?" I asked. "Certainly," answered he, without one expression of sorrow, shame, or any other emotion. For a moment or two I tried to count them, but after I had counted more than sixty, sick at heart, I turned away.—*Churchman's Monthly Penny Magazine.*

COOKING FOOD FOR CATTLE.

It may seem like idle talk, to most of us, to hear anything said in favour of cooking food for cattle, especially when the market is low, and cattle hardly pay their first cost when fed with as little labour as possible. It may not be amiss, however, and possibly it may be useful to many, to know how other people, who are in the vicinity of a first rate cash paying market, manage to feed cattle and earn money by it. We therefore make an extract or two from Professor Johnstone, in regard to this matter. Hearing that Mr. Marshall, near North Allerton, in England, kept double the stock, upon the same amount of turnips by his system of feeding, he went to see the mode carried into effect. He there saw 200 head of cattle feeding, a portion of which were sold off every week, and others supplied their places. What struck him as remarkable, was the state of absolute rest in which he found the cattle. There was not a single beast upon his legs; no motion was observed, which they were aware was favourable for fattening.

In connection with this subject he got the following information, and, in order that it might be fully understood, he would give it in a tabular form:—

Linseed boiled for three hours in four gallons of water. Cut straw, ten pounds, growing corn, (probably wheat) mixed with water. To be given in two messes, alternately, with two feeds of Swedish turnips.

Now, the mode in which the linseed was boiled was of considerable consequence. In the first place, it was boiled for three hours. The jelly was then poured upon crushed grain and cut straw, much in the same manner in which a man makes mortar, being mixed with a shovel, and allowed to stand for an hour. It was then stirred again, and after the lapse of two hours, it was