

And it is to the production of an ample supply of nutritious food of different varieties that we must mainly look for an explanation of the immense numbers of farm animals, and their superior excellence, which characterise the agriculture of Great Britain and Ireland. Previous to the introduction of the turnip, beet, carrot, &c., into field culture, both the amount and quality of live-stock were very different to the present state of things. The same reasons are equally applicable here. Neither our heavy crops, nor artificial or permanent pastures are of such a character as to support large flocks and herds, without the aid of vegetables cultivated in the best manner and on a commensurate scale. Our farmers are beginning to understand that it must be a losing business to go to the trouble and expense of importing or breeding improved stock, without providing for them a sufficient amount of food of the best quality; and experience has determined that a mixture, consisting of hay, roots and grain, is the one by far best adapted to meet the increasing demands of this new and improved order of things.

The season has now arrived when active preparations must be made to secure these objects. It is generally to be recommended to plough land intended for root crops, deeply in the fall, and to prevent the stagnation of water upon the surface either by underdraining or surface furrows, the former being incomparably the best. Give the land a thorough working as early in the spring as its state will admit, always bearing in mind that for fine seeds especially, the ground should never be touched while in a wet state; a rule which applies with increased force to all kinds of heavy and retentive soils. The thorough *mechanical* preparation of the land for root crops, or indeed for all others, is a matter of primary importance, affecting the growth and amount of the crop in a variety of ways.

The next consideration is the adaptation of the soil to a special object in what may be termed a *chemical* point of view; or in other words the supplying of crops with the necessary kind and amount of food which they require. This brings us at once to the all-important question of manures. And here it may be observed that it will only end in loss and disappointment to attempt the raising of roots, for the purpose of cattle feeding, without first bringing the soil into a suitable condition, first by deep and clean cultivation; and second, by the application of manures, in kind and quantity adapted to the requirements of the crop, and the actual condition of the soil. Farm yard dung, unless thoroughly decomposed, which state generally involves a great loss of manuring constituents, should be evenly spread over the surface and well incorporated with the soil. Bone-dust, guano, and the fine artificial manures, are generally best applied in the drills with the seed, taking care that guano, for instance, does not come into direct contact with the seed, as its germination might thereby be weakened or entirely prevented.

REPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

A correspondent recently called our attention to the fact that in the Abstract, published in the Transactions, of the County and Township Agricultural Society Reports, during the year 1853, the amount of subscriptions received in deposit by the County Societies from the townships, in many cases does not correspond with the aggregate amount subscribed by the Township Societies, as taken in detail from the abstract of the reports of the latter; and further that the amount of Government grant to the several townships in a county is frequently not at all in proportion to the amount of their relative subscriptions. A few words will explain this apparent discrepancy. It arises simply from the fact that a portion, more or less, of the subscriptions of each Township Society, is collected after the