

thus leaves more time and room for the stouen crops, which form a leading feature of Flemish peasant agriculture; and the straw is preferred for thatch. Wheat requires much manure, and often does not pay the expense of cultivation. Wheat, therefore, is chiefly confined to the district of strong and land large farms. Barley yields an excellent crop, and beer is the drink of the country. Potatoes occupy ten or twelve per cent. of the arable land. Oats are a favorite crop. Buckwheat is liked, because it requires no manure. In the sandy or small farm regions 35 or 40 per cent. of arable land is employed in growing green crops, either as a first or second crop. These, with the natural and artificial meadows, give a return of more than half the land devoted to crops which yield meal and manure. Without a liberal application of these, lands would soon return to the condition of waste heaths. Artificial fields of lucerne have not succeeded. Common clover mixed with rye-grass, and red clover, are used instead. The damp climate suits permanent pasture; but the soil is generally too poor, in the region we are particularly describing. Formerly the cottage farmers not only grew flax, but spun it with distaff, and wheel; machinery has absorbed that employment; but the rotting, the stripping the flax plant, weaving the thread, distributes a considerable sum in wages amongst the laboring population. The decline of the linen trade has been recently compensated by a great export of linen thread to England and France. The cost of flax growing, in manure, labor and seed, is calculated at about \$65 per acre. Every farmer grows tobacco for his own consumption. But in certain districts a fine quality is obtained. Hops are cultivated with great care and success. They water with liquid manure as soon as the leaves begin to grow slowly. Unlike our hop districts, where every hilling is sacrificed to one plant, the finest crop of wheat and roots are found in the hop districts. Amongst other crops, chickory, used instead of coffee, rap, and other plants, are grown to make oil cake. The number of stock maintained per acre is large, but mere figures carry a very imperfect impression on this point. M. de Lavergne's calculation has 33 horned stock, 6 horses, and 200 sheep for every 2½ acres in England, and in the whole of Flanders 55 horned cattle, 12 horses, and 8 sheep. The French author reduces the English sheep to cattle at 8 to 1, and this gives 64 head in Flanders per 2½ acres. But he also observes that the cattle are chiefly for the dairy; that "in consequence of the want of pasture, and the very small consumption of meat by the working classes, very little meat is grown—except in the large farm districts of the coast;" and that, "while the number of sheep diminishes, a great number of goats—50,000 in the province—are kept by farmers too poor to keep a cow." Since the demand for butter for export to England has so largely increased, the number of sheep has steadily diminished. The French author labors under the erroneous idea that the same result has followed high farming in England; but we all know the reverse is the fact, the number of sheep

fed having steadily increased in England for the last ten years.

It must also be observed that any comparison between the stock fed in England, and on the continent, will be very deceptive, if taken in the usual manner by numbers. Our live stock are so much heavier, so much more valuable to the butcher, and so much earlier matured, that it is no exaggeration to treat them as worth double the live stock of France, Germany, and Flanders—although in dairy-produce Flanders and Holland excel us, not for the superiority of their stock, but the superiority of their management, and in certain districts, of their grasses.

### Management of Poultry.

The following observations on the general treatment of Poultry are taken from a recent work published in Edinburgh, entitled "The Henwife," by Mrs. Fergusson Blair, a highly accomplished lady, who takes great interest and has had extensive experience in the treatment and management of Poultry. Her book is said by competent authority to be a gem of its kind.

"The best guide is nature, and we should always follow her as closely as possible in the treatment of our stock. Fowls are almost grazing animals, and pick up grass, or any green food, in quantities. If, therefore, you cannot give them complete liberty, and this is impossible where large numbers and several varieties are kept, you should at all events allow them a daily run in a grass park. One hour's liberty is sufficient to keep them in health, and their enjoyment of this boon is so great, that, even were there no other reason, that should be sufficient inducement for you to give them their little bit of happiness, even at the expense of trouble to yourself. It is astonishing how soon fowls accommodate themselves to the regulations of the establishment. A day or two suffices to make them acquiesce in all our wishes, and enables them to recognize without apparent difficulty their respective yards. Fowls seem to understand the value of their hour's play, and lose no time the trap once opened; in availing themselves of it; they rush to the grass and never cease picking it, until driven home. Great care must be taken that one set is put in before another is let out. This demands hourly attention, as, by one moment's carelessness in allowing breeds to mix, hopes, for a whole season may be destroyed. If there are several yards of the same breed, these to save time, may be allowed to enjoy each other's society during their run, as a *faux pas* in their case, though not advisable, need not be fatal—but never let out different varieties together. One single *mesalliance* will ruin the purity of the breed. At no season of the year should hens be allowed to associate with the male bird of a different variety, and if *super-eminent* excellence is desired, not even with an inferior one of the same