

it in the middle, that the decomposition may be fairly equal and complete in all parts. It should have been said in the beginning that the manure should be piled on ground that has been tramped, or has been made fairly impervious to the passage of water through it, by covering the area to be occupied by the pile with pounded, puddled clay. Our outdoor rotting pit is made basin fashion, roughly grouted and plastered with cement mortar. At the edge and lowest point, a cistern holding three or four barrels is constructed to relieve the seepage. Here it can be easily dipped out with a pail and returned to the pile. A common oil barrel might well serve the purpose in lieu of the miniature cistern.

Experiments conducted at Cornell University similar to the method described above showed that six months fermentation in the open destroyed the germinative power of all weed seeds near the middle of the pile where a sample of the manure was buried in a sack of wire netting. (1) A large kettleful of earth was heated for nearly a day in order to kill the weed seeds in it. The sample of manure was mixed with the earth, put in a warm place and kept moist. No weed seeds appeared. Of course, this is but one investigation, but it seems to point to the feasibility of killing the germinating power of weed seeds in the centre of the pile; it is probable that they were not all killed on the outer edges.

DESTRUCTION OF THISTLES IN PERMANENT PASTURE.

Among the various suggestions on the above subject none seems to me more practical than advice to "J. C. B" to cut them with the mowing machine; the only exception I take to it is that I consider the time named a little too early, and others I see are also of the same opinion. Mr. SHELTON recommends mowing them twice, first in June, then in September. But why need we mow them twice if once will do? Especially now that labour is scarce. Mr. PICKERING thinks that mowing them will not eradicate them upon pastures. Upon this question I must ask, how have they been mown? On July 12th I cut some with the mowing machine, the knife being set the same as I cut my grass. On the next day I had some cut with the scythe. These latter have grown con-

siderably since being cut, while the others have grown scarcely any. The cause is not far to seek, as those done with the scythe were cut at least two inches higher than those with the machine. Now, I find that when men are cutting thistles with the scythe they do not bend their backs, as they would do if they were cutting grass. And this, I think, will account for better results when the pasture is turned into a meadow. I cannot quite agree that this weed is not propagated by seed on our pastures; or how it is that they are now to be found upon some of the prairies of America where they did not formerly grow? As regards pulling them, in some places this would be an endless job, and would hardly recommend itself to a farmer who says to his men, "Come"—and they are still a number of them left. They may not take a man's share of the work; but if they only superintend and direct, I do not think that they would find much amusement in pulling thistles. But, I ask are thistles of no value? I maintain that everything which grows is of use. And I find that after they are cut and withered my cattle will eat them, particularly if keep is scarce, and they also eat them in the hay. And as they are deep rooted, they may, in some measure, improve a poor pasture. Still, I would rather be without them.

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Eng. Ag. Gazette.

HARVEST IN ENGLAND REGULARLY BEGUN.

The beginning of harvest on a large scale may be dated from August 1st, when the cutting of wheat and spring oats become common in many parts of the Southern, Home, and Eastern countries. Winter oats, of course, were cut earlier in those parts of the country. The reports that we have published at present are quite as good on the whole as there was any reason to expect. There never was any reason to anticipate a great wheat crop, and it will be noticed that very few reports put it above average, while a good many reckon it below. Barley has given more reason for surprise, as its prospects at one time seemed worse than those of wheat or oats, whereas now it seems to have taken the top place among the white-straw crops. The converse is the case with oats, once the most hopeful, but now the least satisfactory, of the group. The pulse crops appear

(1) What we have contented for all along. Ed.