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PRIZE ESSAYS.

Some time ago, the editor of the *American Farmer* at Baltimore, offered one hundred dollars (and he was a lucky *editor* to have it to offer), for the three best essays on the renovation of worn-out land. The prizes have been awarded by the committee to Edward Stabler, Col. Horace Capron, and Thomas P. Stabler, each of them having furnished valuable essays upon these subjects.

The last number of the *American Farmer* contains E. Stabler's essay, which we have perused with satisfaction. The subject is treated in a sensible and practical manner. Many af the suggestions are more applicable to the lands of that section of the Union, (Southern States) than to ours.

Mr. S. has used many kinds of manures. Lime, with him, has been of great service. He says that when lime has been freely used, plaster will generally, if not always, act promptly and efficiently; and thus, at very small expense, materially aid in perpetuating the improvement. He cites a case in which he says, previous to the use of lime, plaster was used very liberally, but with no visible effect whatever; now its action is as marked on this same land as I have ever seen anywhere.

He also recommends bone dust very highly, and observes that it acts well, either alone or with other manures, and is particularly valuable to aid the growth of clovers, and prefers it to Guano for this purpose. It is not so prompt in acting, but is far more durable and more likely to produce a good crop of clover to turn under. He considers clover almost the only green crop of much advantage to turn in.

He recommends it to follow lime, and on the oat crop at the rate of ten bushels to the acre. On the wheat crop, which he generally sows following the oats, he applies a light dressing of guano, say from eighty to a hundred pounds to the acre.

His experience in regard to the following kinds of dressing, he sums up in these words, "lime for the landlord, guano for the tenant, and ground bones for both."—[Maine Farmer.

STORING PUMPKINS AND SQUASHES.

Considering the expense and difficulty of keeping pumpkins and squashes, we generally found it more profitable to feed them out as fast as they ripened. For this purpose, we kept an extra number of animals through the months of September and October, and when the pumpkins, &c., were consumed, we either finished fatting them on grain, or disposed of them to the drover, or butcher.

Pumpkins require much room in storing, and, in spite of the best care, often decay rapidly; besides, as soon as the weather gets cold, they are of such a watery substance, that, if fed in any considerable quantity, they are liable to scour the stock and give them the cholic. It is the same as if fed raw with the turnip, beet, and other roots. Our advice, therefore, is, if you have not the proper conveniences for cooking vegetables, get rid of them as fast as you can do so profitably, during the mild autumnal months.—[American Agriculturist.

COBS A REMEDY FOR WIRE WORMS.

A friend has given us an account of an experiment made the past summer to prevent the depredations of the wire worms. A farmer had the previous year applied to a part of his corn, manure from the hog pen in which there was an abundance of cobs, and where this manure was used, no injury was done by wire worms, while other parts were much injured by them where other manure was.

Supposing that the protection was owing to the cobs, he made an experiment the past season by putting two or three cobs into each hill, among the manure, which was not from the hog pen, on a part of the piece, and the rest of the piece was manured in the same manner, excepting the cobs.

Where the cobs were, the corn succeeded well, and was not injured in the least by worms; while on the part where no cobs were used, the wire worms did much damage. On taking up cobs and examining them it was found that the pith was full of wire worms.

From the result of this experiment, it seems that the worms prefer the pith of the cob to the corn, and that nature has wisely provided for the protection of corn, when the ears fall to the ground, and the corn grows spontaneously, as the worms will find their favorite food in the pith of the cob, which allows the corn to escape their depredations. We should be pleased to hear the result of other experiments on this subject.—[Farmer's Journal.

HOUSE FEEDING SHEEP.

Richard Simeon, Isle of Wight, England, has very successfully practised stall-feeding sheep for several years, one house containing 140 stalls, the other 150.

The stalls should accord with the size of the sheep, it being essential that they should not be so large that the animal can turn round and dirty the trough. Each sheep is confined by a leathern collar, attached to a slight chain, furnished with a couple of swivels, sufficiently long to secure comfort to the animal, but not long enough to hang back beyond the division of his stall, and to interfere with his neighbour. A feeding trough is placed at the head of each sheep, divided for turnips at one end, and chaff, meal, &c., at the other, and a small rack for clover above. A cast iron trough to every two sheep, is supplied with water by a stop-cock from a common cistern. A manure trough, two feet wide and deep, made of brick and water lime, and covered with a wood grating, receives the manure, the sheep standing in rows back to back. This needs cleaning once in ten weeks. Shutters to the stalls regulate the amount of fresh air in cold and mild weather. The manure is of the richest quality, equal to guano. The sheep are healthy, and thrive fast, gaining usually two and a half pounds per week, often three pounds, and in some rare instances, a pound a day.

These advantages could not be less in our severer winters. These facts were stated in the *Gardener's Chronicle.*

MODEL FARMS IN IRELAND.—A project is about to be brought into operation, by the Society of Friends, for the establishment of Model Farms in several parts of the kingdom, in which the best models of agriculture shall be carried on within the view of all classes of the people, and at the same time, means shall be afforded (by a system of accurate accounts constantly open to inspection) of communicating to the owners and occupiers of land, accurate knowledge as to the profit and loss of farming on sound principles.