

TOP DRESSING.—Every farmer and gardener knows that a generous application of manure, whether plowed in or spread upon the surface, is of great benefit to the crop. Green, unfermented manures, we have found, always were most efficacious when plowed or dug in; but in regard to fermented manures, many think that they are most useful when spread upon the surface.

A writer in the London Gardener's Chronicle has some good ideas upon this subject, which have been approved by some of our best horticulturists. Few persons, says he, are aware of the immense importance of top dressing. The merits may be classed as follows: 1st: they may be made capable of transmitting a vast amount of food to a suffering tree (for instance) in a very speedy way. 2ndly: they retain a steady permanency of moisture, in spite of adverse circumstances without stagnation. 3rdly: they are the cause of a series of annual fibres which are of much importance to tender trees. 4thly: by means of such, continued systematically, trees may be planted in shallower soils than without them; this tends to the production of much better ripened wood. 5thly: If a check is needed through rampant growth, or total absence of fruit, the removal of the dressing in summer will supersede the necessity of root pruning.

The above reasons which the writer adduces, refer principally to trees and shrubs, which are, to all intents, fixed or permanent crops. We have, however, often thought that the application of decomposed manure to the surface for annual crops, such as Indian corn, was better than ploughing it under. Many farmers harrow it in to pretty good advantage. We once ploughed in a quantity of green manure from the barn-yard, and spread on the surface a quantity of fermented manure. A part of this was harrowed in, but some circumstance, we have forgotten what now, prevented us from harrowing the whole piece. We planted it to corn, and at harvesting it was observed that the corn where the fermented manure was not harrowed in, was much the best. This, to be sure, was only one experiment, and an accidental one at that; but its result accords with the belief of very many farmers.—

PIG MANURE.—We have great confidence in the following statement, made at a late meeting of the Frome Agricultural Society, by S. Pocock, of Thoulstone Farm:—"Well knowing the excellence of pig manure five years ago, I was induced to try it solely for turnips. I tested it against guano and bone dust. The result was quite equal to the guano, and beat the bone dust hollow. My farm is one part clay, and another sand: I found the same result on both. I have also the management of a farm in Hampshire—a poor thin soil, and there the manure was equally good. I have continued to use it ever since with the same beneficial results. To carry out my plan, convenient farm buildings are necessary. I have a large dry shed, in which, first of all, I put a layer of dry coal ashes, about a foot thick and four feet wide, to which the deposit of the pigs is taken, both liquid and solid; and as soon as it begins to ooze out, I put on more ashes, and so on till it gets to about four feet in thickness. I then again commenced a fresh layer, and so on; after lying some time it is turned two or three times, and then it is fit for drilling. I have put in this year 45 acres of turnips with nothing but this manure, and the result is now open for the inspection of any who may choose to see it. I find the droppings of three pigs, carefully preserved, to be ample for two acres, and quite equal to three sacks of bone dust per acre. I am not speaking theoretically, but from experience; and I consider, if we can get such valuable manure for nothing but the labour, it will be much better than putting our hands in our pockets and paying 28s. or 30s. for artificial manure."

NEW VARIETY OF WHEAT.—Advices from St. Petersburg mention that a new variety of wheat has been recently discovered and cultivated in Bessarabia. It is called the Kolus, or large-eared wheat, on account of the peculiar beauty of its ears. At present it is limited to mere seed-wheat, and fetches twice the price of the ordinary Arnautka. One other and more important peculiarity of this grain is, that it is less affected by drought than any other varieties. At the same time, it possesses several other features, being distinguished by its greater fertility, its deep amber colour, and its early ripening. The important discovery was made by a peasant of the name Bulatowich in the village of Troitzk, in the district of Bender, who, being a strict observer of nature, detected in his crops certain ears which were longer and became ripe earlier than the rest of the crop. These were collected, and sowed separately, and the result was an abundant harvest, and the introduction of a new and valuable variety of wheat. The Russian Government, it is to be hoped, will not let such an opportunity pass of rewarding one so deserving of a substantial mark of its favour. The event has created a great sensation amongst the agriculturists and dealers in grain, and the wheat well merits being named after the discoverer.

LIME VS. INSECTS.—I beg to assure your correspondent that lime may be applied with the most perfect safety to his trees, shrubs, &c.; and will also prove certain destruction to the slug tribe. With respect to the quantity, that must depend on the nature of the soil. In April last, having then recently obtained possession of a garden, &c., that had been greatly neglected, and was overrun with slugs, I spread quick lime over the whole, (vegetables, shrubs, grass, and orchard,) at the rate of about 80 bushels to the acre, so that all through that month we appeared to be in the midst of winter, with the ground covered with snow, even the evergreens being white. The result was, that not a slug was seen till the rains of October, and but very few then. The vegetables have been pretty good, and the growth and vigour of the evergreens have been quite remarkable. The soil is clay. February would be a very good time to lay on the lime.—*Gard. Chron.*

SORE SHOULDERS, &c.—Farm horses are liable to be injured on the shoulder or back with the collar or cart saddle. In these cases styptics are commonly used to dry up the wound, which is quite contrary to the nature of this kind of sores. Lime water and linseed oil are what I have found most beneficial in these cases. It may be prepared in the following way:—Put two quarts of water upon two quarts of unslaked lime; let it stand till the ebullition is over, then pour off the liquor for use; and add five gills of linseed oil and two ounces of sugar of lead. Mix them well together, and keep the solution in a bottle for use. When the animal comes in from work at night the sores should be washed with soap and water, dried with a soft towel, and dressed with a feather dipped in the mixture. This process should be repeated every night till the sores are healed, observing to shake the mixture well every time it is used.

When a horse is injured by the harness, it is necessary to examine what part of it caused the injury, and get it removed by altering the stuffing of the collar or saddle, that it do not press on the sore; for if a wound be constantly irritated, it is hardly possible to heal it. Too few that have the charge of horses consider properly how little is the cause that irritates and injures them, and makes them either dull and spiritless or refractory and spiteful; and I would therefore enforce on those who work them, the incumbent duty that devolves on them to adjust the harness for the care or comfort of the animal as much as possible.