

dependence of old plans and guidance into new ones—he sedulously watches, carefully observes, and at once obeys every indication which guides the suggestions of the scientific man for the improvement of his methods.

Notwithstanding his greater need of all possible assistance, the agriculturist, also a chemical manufacturer, is still inclined to look askance and with suspicion on the recommendations of science. We do not think he should recklessly adopt changes of practice except they be preceded by corresponding changes of those circumstances out of which old practice has arisen; but we submit this parallel between the farmer and the manufacturing chemist to the consideration of our agricultural readers, as justifying those among them who are inclined to listen to the criticism of the scientific man upon their practice, and to receive his suggestions for its improvement.

Plaster with Manure.

County of Carlton, March, 1862.

Editors of Canadian Agriculturist.

Much more attention is now being paid the making and saving of manure than formerly. I remember when the manure in a neighbouring village was considered useless, no one thought worth taking away, and it was carted, like other rubbish, to any spot where it might be deposited without creating a nuisance; now it is eagerly sought after, and will be taken away wherever paid for.

I have no doubt that many persons, who, like myself, are now for the first time directing their attention to agricultural pursuits, would gladly adopt improved means of increasing the quantity and preserving the quality of this, now much valued commodity. But unfortunately, if we seek for information from our more experienced neighbours or endeavour to obtain it from agricultural periodicals, we find nothing but contradiction, and instead of being instructed are only bewildered.

On page 62 for 1860, you recommend that the manure heap should be "liberally sprinkled with plaster." I have for some years past, used scrapings of the poultry house, with truly astonishing effect on Indian corn; but I find difficulty in keeping it until the proper time, and the liberation and escape of ammonia set in as soon as put together. Seeing an article on saving manure by mixing it with plaster and putting away in barrels; I had determined on doing it, when I find that "in a dry state plaster liberates ammonia." I might go on giving many instances of like contradictions; but you inform us under what circumstances plaster may be advantageous, applied to animal manure.

I am, &c.,

BELAR.

REMARKS.

Hen manure, like the dung of birds in general, comprises both the solid and liquid excrements, and consequently possess the highest fertilising power. In warm and moist weather it readily ferments, and discharges ammonia,—even when treated with sulphate of lime. Manures of this description should be kept in small quantities, or, which is better, mixed with large bulks of light earthy or peaty substances, which would prevent excessive fermentation, and absorb ammoniacal gas. Sulphate of lime, (plaster) has been found beneficial in sprinkling over the floors of byers and stables, and may be advantageously applied to animal excrements, when mixed with earthy and vegetable matters in the form of compost, and to farm-yard manure. Powdered charcoal answers the same purpose in a much higher degree. There is no doubt too much contradiction in the opinions and writings of agriculturists; some of which is inevitable to a pursuit so peculiarly experimental and progressive as that of agriculture. Upon more careful examination, however, much of these anomalies will be found more apparent than real; and notwithstanding the obscurity which, to some extent, still surrounds the mode of action of manuring substances, it is gratifying to know that more enlightened attention is constantly being paid by both practical and scientific men to this most important department of improved husbandry.

Condiments.

Everybody has heard of Thorley and Thorley's Food. Like Holloway, he is everywhere. We cannot travel but we observe his illustrated advertisements, stuck on the walls of every railway station, wherein worn-out Rozinantes are represented, on the one hand, at the last kick, and on the other in full health and vigour, the result, as we are led to suppose, of the use of his wonderful "Condiment." We can scarcely open a newspaper but "Thorley" stares us in the face; nay, more, like the great Nelson, he has even a Gazette of his own; a special record of his victories over the direful effects of starvation and disease, and a castigating weapon to be laid on the shoulders of all who dare to doubt the infallibility of his life-giving condiment.

Wednesday, the 19th inst., was a great day for Thorley. Under the sponsorship of Mr. Beale-Browne, the merits of Thorley's Food was fully discussed at one of the open weekly council meetings of the Royal Agricultural Society of