

idea of my farm-yard, out of which, and to the south is my manure-pit, ten feet lower than the farm-yard, and into which, by means of conducting drains, all the liquids are conducted, and at the lowest point of which is the manure-pump. *Farmer's Gazette.*

GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGEMENT TO AGRICULTURE IN BELGIUM.—The Belgian Government has taken measures to propagate in the country the methodical improvement of the land by means of subsoil drainage, which has latterly been found so beneficial in England. Machines have been constructed and conveyed to different points of the kingdom for the manufacture of the tiles necessary for carrying off the water, as well as the tools required for the construction of the trenches. A complete treatise on drainage has been written, and will shortly be published. Lastly, an engineer (*M. Leclerc*), from the first School of Civil Engineers of Ghent, has been sent into this country to study all the details of the new system; after a sojourn of some months this officer has just returned to Belgium, furnished with all the necessary knowledge; he will be in communication with all landowners or farmers who may desire to make trial of his plans. A decree issued by the Minister of the Interior regulates the conditions under which the works are to be carried on. A society has been formed to demonstrate the good effects of subsoil drainage, to enable proprietors more easily to construct the works, and to collect information treating of the new system; some of the richest landed proprietors have already enrolled their names as members. The Minister of the Interior has placed *M. Leclerc* at the disposition of this society.

SEX OF EGGS.—A correspondent of the *Agricultural Gazette* says:—"I am induced to tell you that, without pretending to any knowledge of abstruse mysteries, I have learned to discover which eggs will produce pullets, and have pursued the practice through this season with uniform success. It consists simply in this—to avoid setting the long shaped eggs, which always produce cocks, choosing the rounder and plumper ones. Generally, too, I have found that the very largest eggs produce male birds. I select, therefore, the most promising rounder shaped eggs, without taking the very largest. It is certainly an important matter to succeed in this department, having myself often had the mortification to have a whole brood of cocks, or nearly so; the avoidance of this inconvenience is truly a desideratum."

HINTS ABOUT FIRE.—In case of fire, whatever may be the heat of the moment, keep cool; let

nothing put you out, but find something to put out the fire; keep yourself collected, and then collect your family. After putting on our shoes and stockings, call out for pumps and hose to the firemen. Don't think about saving your watch and rings, for while you stand wringing your hands, you may be neglecting the turn-cock, who is a jewel of the first water at such a moment. Bid him, with all your might, turn on the main.

SMOKY CHIMNEYS.—A correspondent of the *Builder* says—"I have built many chimneys in all possible situations, and have found one simple plan everywhere succeed, the secret being only to construct the throat of the chimney, or that part of it just above the fire-place, so small that a man or boy can scarcely pass through. Immediately above this, the chimney shaft should be enlarged to double its width, like a purse, to the extent of about two feet in height, and then diminish again to its usual proportions. No chimney that I ever constructed thus smoked."

SONG OF THE PLOUGHMAN.

WRITTEN AT THE REQUEST OF ONE OF THE MEMBERS
OF THE TRAFALGAR AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

See the morning breaks away,
Waken ploughman to your toil;
From early dawn till gloamin' grey,
Guide the plough and turn the soil.

Draw the furrow long and deep,
Scatter widely—never spare;
Let the harrow o'er it sweep—
The faith of future bread is there.

Nature now her aid is bringing,
Green the dewy braird is springing;
Hear the lark above it singing—
The faith of future bread is there.

The summer sun all brightly glows,
Diffusing life and joy around;
The genial showers so mildly flow,
Imparting freshness to the ground.

On lowly strath, on rising bank,
The ploughman's fostering care we find;
Where fertile fields, so strong and rank,
Charm the eye and cheer the mind.

Cattle on the lea are feeding,
Fleecy flocks the hills are cleaving;
Beauteous flowers their blossoms spreading,
Charm the eye and cheer the mind.