

Early and Late Sowing.

Great difference of opinion exists among practical farmers as to the effects of early or late sowing. Results have been from time to time given, which, not being comparative, are really of no value,—except, perhaps, in their own immediate district,—as they do not admit of general application; and probably, in some cases, indeed, the results were attributed to other causes than the time of sowing. In this part of the world, at least, accurate experiments and carefully recorded observations are very much wanted in reference to this question. A series of comparable trials on different soils in various portions of the country would materially assist the settlement of this disputed point.

Professor Wilson, in his treatise entitled, *our Farm Crops*, observes:—The only experiments recorded are by Arthur Young, towards the close of last century, and these are quoted by several of the continental writers. These experiments had reference to the comparative yield of barley, sown at different periods in England, in the same soil, and in the same portions, and the result is given as follows:—

Sown in February,	the yield as	12	5
“ March,	“	11	5
“ April,	“	8	5
“ May,	“	6	5
“ June,	“	3	15

The preceding figures, furnished to us by such authority on all farming matters as Arthur Young, surely are worth something. The experiment, no doubt, was a solitary one; but then was strict, consequently valuable; and at all times, it is quite within our power to test their correctness in regard to the general conditions of the crops growing, by a more extended series of trials, which would have the advantage of drawing public attention to the subject, and give us valuable data for our guidance in future operations. Perhaps some of our readers will favour us with the results of their practice as far as their experience or observation has extended.

Agriculture—Its Past, Present and Future.

Continued from page 2.98

IT HAVING A PROGRESSIVE INFLUENCE ON BRITISH AGRICULTURE.
Societies for the Promotion of Agriculture.
Highland Society and the Smithfield Club

(1784); the Royal Agricultural Society of England (1838); the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland (1841); the London Central Farmers' Club, the first farmers' club, the gradual establishment of local farmers' clubs and county agricultural societies (1843); the Board of agriculture (incorporated) was established by Sir John Sinclair, and had Arthur Young for its secretary (1793); Annals of Agriculture commenced (1784) by Arthur Young, and continued until 1808; the two great agricultural fetes of this period (1784)—the sheep shearings at Holkham and Woburn, at which hundreds of the most eminent of the kingdom were annually assembled—was also serviceable in stimulating the national taste in favour of agriculture.

New Plants previously Unknown in Britain.—Hops from the Netherlands (1524); potatoes introduced into England by Sir Walter Raleigh (1700), a government premium given as an encouragement to their cultivation—first in Scotland in 1739, and became general there in 1760 to 1780; white turnips (Norfolk whites) used by Lord Townshend (1730); swedes grown in East Lothian (1781); garden turnips were known in the reign of Henry VIII.; broad clover known in Scotland (1740); Italian rye-grass Scotland (1700 to 1732); clover hybridum, W. Stephens (1834); clover incarnatum, Ellman (1821); clover pratense (1645); clover perennium (1707); clover repens; in Scotland, where heath is removed and lime is applied, it springs up spontaneously (1707); mangel wurzel (1810) introduction due to Dr. Lettsom, most important as a root for heavy clays. Sainfoin and lucern followed the introduction of clover.

Artificial Manures.—Bones used by Mr. Watson of Keillor (1821); Mr. Stevenson of the *North British Agriculturist*, says that they were known to be agriculturally useful at the end of the last century; superphosphate of lime (1841); rape dust known in Scotland as a valuable manure (1820 to 1828); guano: half cwt. brought from Liverpool to Scotland, and sold at 6d. per lb. (1829); three cwt. brought (1831); guano first used in quantity (1841-42): some idea may be formed of the quantity now used, when it is stated in the *Times* of this day (2nd Feb. 1861), that Messrs. Gibbs & Co. paid last year at Liverpool £7,000, being at the rate of only 3d. per ton, with the addition of dock dues. Marl, used before the Roman invasion; woollen rags; blood and offal; ground coprolites; fish manure, starfish, sprats and mussels.

Artificial Foods.—Linseed, linseed cakes, rape-cakes, nut-cakes, cottonseed-cakes—I first used some about 1856-7—locust beans, Indian corn, rice, Dara lentils, Egyptian beans, dates, and a variety of other foreign productions.

Legislative Acts.—Free importation of foreign corn (1847); free importation of foreign animals (1841); the New Poor-Law (1834); the General Board of Health (1848); Enclosure