

sore trouble and disappointment to many. Nor is it easy always to account for its appearance? A friend of mine for years had gathered abundant crops of the sweet-water, when it suddenly mildewed and became worthless. Downing, than whom, few are better or safer guides in horticulture, speaking of this disease attacking the foreign vines, grown out of doors,—but you, reader, ask in amazement, where in the world should they be grown if not out of doors? Why in doors to be sure. Never, unless you have a very sheltered spot, try to grow the foreign vines in the open air. But if you have such a spot, do not waste your strength upon the Sweet-water, when you can so easily obtain the equally hard and very far superior Royal Muscadine. But Downing says: "That an intelligent cultivator, living in a warm and genial corner of Canada West, had been more than usually successful for several seasons in maturing several varieties of foreign grapes in the open air. At length they began to fail, even upon the young vines, and the mildew made its appearance to render nearly the whole crop worthless. Last season this gentleman gave one of his grape borders a *heavy dressing of wood ashes*, and he had the satisfaction of raising a crop of fair and excellent grapes." So we say, look to your soil, that it be dry, deeply dug, loose and rich, and that there be wanting neither lime nor potash in the soil; for these are so necessary to the grape.

Yours,

CLERICS.

P.S.—It is not difficult to understand why the condition of solid masses of decayed matter, such as that produced by the carcasses, would be very injurious. The manure would be too sharp, too pungent. Guano applied in small quantities it is well known is highly nutritious, but what roots could live in it in a pure state. You might as well expect them to grow in a vial of strong hartshorn. There is a fault into which amateur and novices in gardening sometimes fall. Because a little of a thing is good, they imagine a great deal must be better. But it is a great mistake. Prudence in the application of manures, cannot be dispensed with, if a firm vigorous growth is to be ensured. No doubt some soils will stand, and perhaps require what would be an overdose to others. I am not sure that an underlayer of fresh carcasses would not be beneficial to a heavy clay soil in an eminent degree, while in a light soil they would burn and destroy. This is a question upon which the Editor can, no doubt, throw much light, and it is an important one.

HORTICULTURAL HINTS AND MEMORANDA FOR FEBRUARY.

"WINTER'S still here, with purpled nose and hands,
And shakes his flaky locks, and snows his lands,
How bright at morn, when nightly drizzlings freeze,
The fairy paradise of glassy trees,
Prismatic beam and crackle in the breeze."

Cold, stern winter still holds his frigid grasp, and little more can be done in this climate than what was noticed last month. Preparations, however, should be well considered, and decided on, with reference to the coming activity of spring. Much may be done by way of providing manure for a garden previous to the advent of spring, by collecting leaves, the scourings of ditches, and other materials of a vegetable or animal nature that are to be found, more or less, around the homestead, and which are commonly suffered to run to waste, including the refuse and liquid portions of dung heaps, stables, &c. Upon light soils manure made from cows is better than that of horses, as it tends to consolidate and stiffen soils that are loose and dry; whereas horse manure warms and opens such as are cold and heavy. A due mixture, however, of animal manures, with leaf mould, plaster, wood ashes, lime, &c., is generally more efficacious than such as have only a few ingredients; and by a little forethought and attention, much may be done in this way at a comparatively little cost.

As the raising of a few early vegetables, salads, &c., in our cold, late springs, furnishes the table with what are felt at such a time, to be real luxuries, we would recommend such of our readers as possess ordinary conveniences to set about the formation of a hot bed. By a small outlay, with attention and perseverance, a sufficient amount of these things may be raised to meet the wants of a family. The following directions from the pen of Mrs. Loudon, will be found quite practicable in this country:—

FORMATION OF HOT-BEDS. — Though nearly all the kinds of manure which have been enumerated may be used occasionally for hot-beds, the only materials in common use in gardens are stable manure, dead leaves, and tan. The first of these, which