

AGRICULTURAL.

From the American Silk Grower.

MANURES.

Manures are the Philosopher's Stone to farmers, and to make, preserve, and judiciously apply them, is an important branch to which the attention of every agriculturalist ought to be constantly directed. It should be his first care to procure as much as he possibly can, and his second care to preserve what he accumulates. To these two points, farmers cannot bestow too much attention—every acquisition of the one improvement in the other, adds so much to his capital, and gives him more than one hundred per cent. interest. The price set upon manure is far from being adequate to its real value. Those who live in situations where it can be purchased, cannot apply their money to better advantage.

The amount collected by the majority of our farmers, is small to what it might be, by suitable exertions. It is frequently suffered to remain in situations where it is washed off into brooks and ponds, or uncultivated lands, and then it is entirely lost. It is more frequently permitted to remain in other more secure situations as is thought, and poison the atmosphere with its fragrance, to the no small annoyance of society, and to the starvation of the plants in the vicinity to which its proper application would be grateful.

The best method of preserving this real article is worthy of attentive inquiry.

1st. The barn-yard should be dishing, or concave, so as to retain all the liquid manure, and unless already on an impermeable soil, should be paved with clay, and should be so located as to be secure from wash, more than the quantity of water which must necessarily fall on the ground.

2d. A supply of litter, such as worthless vegetables, straw, brakes, turf, mud and rich soil from the way-side, should be provided to absorb all the juices of the yard, and the gases evolved by fermentation.

3d. Window heaps should be defended from the rain and sun by a roof, and in general, should be spread upon the ground in spring, and ploughed in.

4th. Cattle should be kept in the yard during the winter season, and as many yarded during the summer as can be convenient.

5th. What manure necessarily accumulates upon the fields, should be gathered up or knocked in pieces, according to the old custom in the spring, with a suitable mallet, by a lazy boy.

6th. The hog-yard should be tightly enclosed and furnished with an abundant supply of material, which the occupants will convert into the best of manure, and ask you nothing for it. Lazy as they are, they may be made to work out at least half their living, without ever mistaking it. It has been thought by some that they might be so managed as to pay the whole expense of keeping them.

Thus much for the preservation of manures. Next let every farmer examine his farm to see if there be not some mine of wealth in the shape of a marl bed, or at least if there be not an accumulation somewhere, of decayed vegetables, or some ingredients of soil in which his cultivated fields are deficient. It is believed there are few farms that have not some advantages of this kind—some quagmire, perhaps, which may prove the making of the farm. Vegetation draws her stores from the vegetable, animal and mineral kingdoms, and there are no definable limits to her improvement. Our soil, instead of becoming less and less fruitful, as is the mistaken notion of some, may, by a proper cultivation, be made more and more prolific. Our earth contains the materials necessary to make her surface a garden. All that is want-

ing is the intelligent mind and diligent hand, to make her plains and valleys, her hills and dales, thick with herbage, and wave with the golden grain.

From the Cultivator.

TILLAGE HUSBANDRY.

Rye ranks next to wheat as a bread corn; it is used for that purpose in the entire northern part of the continent of Europe, and very extensively in the northern States of America, particularly in New England, where it is generally combined with corn meal in the fabrication of bread. In Holland, and in some of the German States, rye bread is fed alike to horses and their drivers. It is considered wholesome, and the husk possesses an aromatic and slightly acidulous flavour, which renders it agreeable to the palate. The bran should not, therefore, be entirely separated from the flour.

Soil.—The soils designated by Von Thaeer as suitable for rye, and because, perhaps, that they are ill adapted to other crops, contain from 18 to 20 per cent. of clay, from 75 to 80 of sand, little or no carbonate of lime, and but 1½ per cent of humus, or vegetable mould. They are considered the lowest rate of sandy lands, and in the comparative estimate of value, as worth only one fifth of the first class of strong wheat lands. A great body of the land is therefore very suitable for rye. In truth, it is generally sown upon soils that promise little return in better crops, and is too often left to shift for itself. Yet it nevertheless will repay good treatment, as well as more favored crops. It is the only grain that will grow on soils containing more than 85 per cent of sand.

Cultivation.—Farms that will not produce good wheat, may be made to produce good rye; yet to render it profitable, it should not be made to follow in consecutive years, as it often is, in the same field—sown with wheat in the proportion of one to thirty of seed, rye is affirmed to be beneficial to the product of the wheat, affording shade and shelter, and protecting the latter from mildew, much improving the sample of the grain, and, upon light soils, often giving an increase of two bushels per acre in the product. This fact, which we take from No. 6. vol. ii, of *British Husbandry*, may afford useful suggestions to those who raise wheat only for their household consumption. Rye will not thrive upon a wet soil. Its general treatment nearly resembles that of wheat.

The seed is generally sown early in September, sometimes in August, and, sometimes in an emergency, in November. It requires more covering than wheat.

When sown early, rye is often depastured in autumn, by calves, sheep, and even cows, without injuring the crop, and even to its advantage. It is often sown as a soiling crop, to be cut in spring and fed to stock. The quality of the ground is improved by the grain being cut before it has become perfectly hard.

[From the New England Farmer.]

FATTENING SWINE.

Judge Peters of Pennsylvania, formerly President of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society, stated that "Sour food is most grateful and alimentary to swine. One gallon of sour wash goes farther than two of sweet. I mean the wash acidulated to the degree necessary for distillation, not aceticus." Mr Arthur Young likewise observes that "the most profitable mode of converting grain of any kind, into food for hogs, is to grind it into meal, and mix this with water to the extent of the proportion of 5 bushels of water to 100 gallons of water; stirring it well several times a day, for three weeks in cold weather, or a fortnight in a warmer season, by which it will have fermented well, and become

acid, till which, it is not ready to give. The mixture should always be stirred immediately before feeding, and two or three cisterns must be kept fermenting in succession, that no necessity may occur of giving it unduly prepared."

Judge Peters also observes that "Dry rotten wood kept constantly in styes, for fattening hogs to eat at pleasure, is a good thing; but I shall take the liberty of mentioning what I consider a better. We have blacksmiths in this town, and my hogs eat up all the ashes or cinders they make; we haul it into the pens by cart-loads, and the hogs will devour this at times, with more avidity than their ordinary food."

Charcoal, it has been said, will answer us good, or a better purpose, than either cinders or rotten wood. If swine are supplied with a quantity of coal, (according to the statement of several persons who have tried the experiment,) say two pieces a day to each, about the size of a hen's egg, they will discontinue rooting, remain more quiet, and fatten faster than they will otherwise. Charcoal will operate on the human frame as a cathartic, and probably will have the same effect on the animal of which we are treating. If so, it may supercede the necessity of using brimstone, antimony, and other drugs, with which hogs are often dosed. At any rate, it will cost but little to give them constant access to coals, which may be sifted or raked from your fire-place, and they will be induced by instinct, to consume such quantities as will promote their health and expedite their fattening.

When you first commence fattening swine, care should be taken not to give them any more than they will eat with appetite. If they become gorged or cloyed, their thriving is retarded, and there is danger from staggers and diseases consequent on repletion, or the gormandizing propensities of these four-footed epicures.

The practice in Scotland, is to rear swine chiefly on raw potatoes, and to fatten them on these roots boiled or prepared by steam, with a mixture of oats, barley, or bean and pease meal. Their trough should be often replenished with a small quantity of food, and kept always clean, and seasoned occasionally with salt.

An English farmer fattened eight pigs in the following manner, which may be recommended in cases where a constant and regular attention cannot be given to feeding the animals. He placed two troughs in the sty. One he filled with raw potatoes, the other with pease, and gave no water. When the pigs were thirsty, they ate the potatoes. In this way, it is probable, that the animals could not only do without water, but likewise needed no brimstone, or other medical substance, for raw potatoes are cooling and drastic.

Rubbing and currying the hides of fattening hogs is not only grateful to the animals, but conducive to their health and thriftiness. In every sty a strong post should be fixed for them to rub against. They should have plenty of litter, which will not only be the means of contributing to their comfort but increasing the most valuable manure.

The following mixture for fattening swine, has been recommended: Wash potatoes clean, boil and mash them while hot, mix in at the same time, oats and pea meal. Put the mixture into a large tub, which must stand till it becomes a little sour, but not very acid, nor in the least putrid. Keep a quantity of this on hand, fermenting, and give it to your hogs as often as they will eat. Pork can be fattened in this way, making a saving of one third of the food and labour consumed in the usual mode.