

side and thrown in very easily through the window; air-slaked lime is then dusted over this until it is quite white. The droppings fall upon the lime, and when they are gathered, they are soraped up with the lime and the earth and put into the barrels. The barrels are kept out of doors, but covered to prevent exposure to rain. In three months the contents of a barrel become a brown soft powder, having but little appearance of the manure left, and as I have said, is four times as soluble as the fresh manure when it is taken out of the house—lime and earth mixed with it. Of the fresh manure, but two to three parts are soluble after drying it, while ten to twelve parts of compost, after three or four months, are soluble. I think manure made and prepared in this way is worth \$20 a ton, or seven times the value, here, of the best stable manure, and one-fourth the value of Peruvian guano. (1) A flock of twenty-two hens, kept in one house, has made, since November last up to last week, five barrels, or about 1,000 pounds of the mixed compost, of which at least one third is clear droppings. This quantity I am sure is worth \$10. I choose air-slaked lime in preference to plaster because of its useful effect in decomposing the manure, and the abundant organic matter—decaying sod—in the earth. The earth absorbs any ammonia which may be formed in the compost—is, in fact, one of those nitro beds which were once used to produce nitric acid by the nitrification of organic matter by the help of lime. The mixture is packed solidly in the barrels and is kept moist enough by absorption from the air to effect the nitrification. No doubt longer keeping would add still more to the solubility of the manure, by more completely disorganising the organic matter, and more thoroughly effecting the nitrification. Plaster will simply keep the elements in the manure inert, and would be like putting the talent in the napkin or burying it in the earth, it is safe, but it has made no usury. Lime effects the necessary decomposition, which plaster does not.

H. STEWART.

Bergen County, N. J.

Hindrances to Cabbage Culture

*ELDS. COUNTY GENTLEMAN—F. K. Moreland has written well on the Farm Culture of Cabbages (p. 417), in which, though he speaks of the cabbage worm, he mentions no remedy except "a fertile, soil and early, close-heading varieties," which he seems to think "sufficient to overcome the evil." This has not done it in any case. True, the Filderkraut has a very close and remarkably hard head, and that, with me, has always escaped the ravages of the worm, which some attributed to its wonderful solidity, being, as some said, "so hard and solid that the worm cannot cut into it;" but, in my acquaintance with it, I seldom saw a worm on the head at all, the reason being, as I think, that the outside and first-grown leaves upon which the moth lays its eggs, and, of course, on which the larvæ are hatched, fall or roll away so far from the head that the worm has no way of access to it.

In the farm culture of cabbages, where one or more acres are set with them, where it would take too much time and be too much trouble to the farmer to pick them from, or apply some exterminator to every head, a very good preventive of the depredations of the moth is to belt the entire field with a setting of turnips, say one and a half rods wide, as the miller usually flutters only around the edge of a large field, and is about as fond of the turnips (Swede) as of cabbage. The turnip is little, if any, damaged by the worms. To guard against worms, we should not wish to make the setting of a large field all *Filderkrauts*, or all "early" ones, even though both were proof against them.

Another evil to which the cabbage is subject, of which he speaks, is "club-foot," from which cause alone he has had

(1) It should be analysed. "I think" won't do now-a-days.

A. R. J. F.

to re-set almost an entire plot. A certain remedy for this evil is salting, of which a tablespoonful may be put about the plant soon after it is set, though a better way is to broadcast a good coat of it, raking in or not, as you please, though raking is the better way. Few, if any, crops pay as well as cabbages. If you hoe or stir the ground about them early in the morning, they will grow all the better for it.

Montgomery County N. Y.

O. E. HEWES.

Ensilage

The advocates of ensilage are not to have it all their own way, even on the other side of the Atlantic. Professor Brown, of the Ontario College of Agriculture, has been carrying out some experiments in feeding dairy cows with ensilage, and in his report he states:—"In competition with swede turnips ensilage corn gave 15 per cent less milk, 30 per cent less butter, and a poorer marketable butter in colour. The specific gravity of the milk obtained from the two kinds of diet differed but little, but the yield per cow per day was 33lb. from turnips, and only 28lb. from ensilage. The percentage of cream stood respectively 12 and 12½ per cent. Hay and bran were used with both." Professor Brown regards the use of ensilage as advisable only as a supplementary food or relish. Lord Tollemache has filled his first silo at Peckforton, and is confident of meeting with success. Lord Walsingham also has constructed four silos, and filled some of them. He is covering the grass with bran and then weighting it with boxes of gravel to ensure the exclusion of the air. The first will be opened in November, other two later on, and the last will not be opened till about April next. The Duke of Hamilton has constructed two silos at Great Glenham, Suffolk, and filled one of them last week. They are built in the bays of a barn, and are 22 feet long by 10 feet deep and 17 feet wide. *English paper.*

Destruction by and of the Wireworm.

Miss Ormerod has given an interesting and valuable lecture on "the wireworm; its history, attacks, and remedies." In these days of agricultural depression it is disagreeable to find that the wireworm lives for five years, feeds all the time, and likes almost every kind of food. It is an insect, therefore, which should be cleared out as speedily as possible. But it is obviously impossible for farmers to go through a hundred acres holding looking for worms the size of a short piece of flattened wire, though they have three pairs of little claw legs, and jaws which they use only too readily. The next best thing, therefore, is to destroy the eggs, render the residence of the grubs uncomfortable, or starve them by growing food which they cannot eat. By compressing the soil they are unable to move about freely. By feeding sheep and cattle on the ground with cake, the worms get starved and trodden out of existence. Chemical manures are also found serviceable. The burning of all grass, weeds, and roots is an effective means of clearing away the insects by destroying their shelter; while the earthing (sic) of litter for use after decaying is equivalent to dressing the ground with wireworms. About the only thing which they cannot stand is Kurrachee, or Indian cake—really, mustard cake: they feed greedily upon it, and then die. Mustard, therefore, is a good clearing crop. (1)

Fruits for Export

At the weekly meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, held Jan. 27th, the subject of "The best kinds of fruits for export," occupied the discussions of the day. E. W. Wood, chairman of the fruit committee, recommended more

(1) And rape or cotton-seed-cake, broken to the size of a hazelnut. I doubt that sowing mustard will have much effect, as it is the gorging that kills the brutes. A. R. J. F.