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**First Steps in Farming—Young Man's Department.
LIQUID MANURE.**

(Continued)

LINCOLN COLL, SOREL, DEC. 10th 1884.

Yesterday I visited one of my neighbours' cow-stalls, and I confess I longed to set to work on them. No straw, nothing but filth, and how the unfortunate woman (*très grande dame, par exemple*) whose duty it is to milk the poor creatures can bear the unavoidable whisks of their foul tails, I do not see. Surely, gratuitous sawdust within a quarter of a mile cannot be an expensive form of bedding! I grinned with pleasure, when returning to my own pets I found them clean and comfortable; and I came to the conclusion, that, at M. L.'s at least, a tank would, as Mr. Barnard puts it, save 75 0/10 of the liquid manure. I avow, frankly, that, up to the time mentioned, I did not think any decent farmer would dream of keeping his stock in such a state—it was really enough to make even an enthusiast like myself despair of his country. Next week, I shall try to extend my observation, and I do hope to find some few *habitants* whose views are more enlightened than M. L.'s. It is truly sad, for the man is decidedly intelligent, better educated than the general run of farmers, and by no means without means.

And having thus freed my mind of a burden too heavy bear, I will give a few directions as to the building of tanks, the form of drains, and the construction and method of using the liquid-manure cart; and, first, of the drains.

The drain should be circular in shape, and laid with a considerable fall, as liquid-manure is always more or less *studdy*: it should run as straight as possible from stalls to tank: any corners, even if rounded off, invariably check the flow. Gratings should be placed to intercept any pieces of straw on their road to the tank.

The tank.—There are several things to be considered before beginning to build. When a tank is made deep, like a well, the lower part must be made very strong, to resist the hydrostatic pressure of the fluid within it, and, of course, will be so much the more expensive in construction. A tank, then, should be built shallow, not more than four or five feet below the sole of the drains which bring the liquid-manure. In this climate, the tank must be either placed under the stable, or it must be covered in some way out of reach of the frost. In no case must it admit any water, either from above or below. Where the subsoil is clay, it should be puddled, or rammed, and if a spring, however small, shows itself, a drain should be formed to get rid of its water. A *manhole* in the roof will afford easy means of access for the purpose of cleaning out the tank.

As to the size of the tank, that depends upon the sort of farming practised and the number of cattle kept, but in a rough way, 1000 gallons for every cow kept will be enough = 162 cubic feet. If enlarged tanks are required, it is better, because cheaper, to have parallel rows of narrow tanks than to extend the length or breadth. In a series of such tanks, the common walls support the arches on both sides.

The pump, for I suppose nobody would now-a-days dream of lading out liquid-manure with a pail, the pump, I say, should be made in the "chain" form, that is, with a series of small buckets revolving on an iron chain. The ordinary valve and plunger of the common pump would soon clog up with such viscid stuff as liquid-manure. A small trough from the spout of the pump to the mouth of the cart will be found handy.