

the sub-soil ploughs brought into competition with it there.

The undermentioned practical Agriculturists were present by invitation of Mr. Marks, to witness the trial, viz:—Charles Penner, Esq., Dr. Young, of the Garrison, W. Ferguson, Esq., W. Molditch, Esq., A. Cameron, Esq., W. Wilson, Esq., Thomas Briggs, Esq. Mr. W. Starks, Mr. A. Laidlaw, Mr. James Cowan, and Mr. John Dunn, who unanimously decided in favor of Mr. Penner's Plough, as being lighter of draft, easier to hold, and more thoroughly breaking up the soil, without bringing too much towards the surface. It is to be hoped some of our plough manufacturers will embrace the present opportunity of making application to Mr. Penner for this plough, to take patterns by, and thereby supply their customers with the best articles as yet known of this most valuable farm implement. The day was highly favourable, and no pains were spared to do every justice to investigations. The approved Plough while cutting to the depth or six inches under the bottom of the previously cut furrow, was drawn by one horse, and that a light one, while the other plough was drawn by four yoke of oxen and one horse in front. The business of the day was closed at the hospitable board of Mr. Marks, who on this, as on every other occasion, evinced his zeal in the improvement of the agricultural affairs of this country.—*Argus*.

WHY IS THE GARDEN MORE FERTILE THAN THE FIELD?

The universal answer to this question, is, because it is more highly manured, and therefore has a richer soil. This is not always the case. But it is owing to the finely pulverised condition of the beds, that gives it a highly absorbent power to attract moisture from the atmosphere—a source of fertility that many farmers scarcely seem aware that they possess. If the soil of the field were as carefully worked, and fresh earth constantly exposed to the atmosphere, as in the well-tended garden, the land would increase, rather than deteriorate in fertility. Let the rule be, "plow deep, cultivate well, pulverise lumps and sods, and return the straw to the soil," and you may carry off an immense quantity of human food, and still have a fertile soil remaining.

Plants, in their nature, are organised beings. By means of their roots they take up food from the soil—and often, the very food which the soil has taken up by its power of absorption from the atmosphere, and which power is increased to an almost indefinite extent, by disintegrating the particles of which it is composed. The very act of plowing and harrowing, is an act of manuring. The act of stirring the earth, in times of drouth, serves as a watering of the plants. The moisture thus absorbed is loaded with a fertilising power that is lost upon a hard surface, for it lacks the power of absorption.

If, then, you would have your fields as fertile

as a garden, you must not depend alone upon manure, but pulverise freely, not upon the surface alone, but deep below it.

WATER OXEN.

We notice the arrival from Constantinople, per bark New World, via Liverpool, of two pair of Asiatic buffalo calves, or as they are generally called in the books "water oxen."

These animals have been imported by Dr. Davis, for Mr. Williams Middleton, whom we understand, some time since adapted, (by wire fencing,) a large extent of land for the rearing of cattle, and in which he has about one thousand head, sustained entirely by the natural resources of the land, not only giving him a large revenue, but adding greatly to the supply of veal, butter and beef markets in our city.

A pair of these water oxen brought out by Dr. Davis over a year since, are really objects of curiosity, (and of course of corresponding promise,) from their remarkable fatness, and this from feeding on the marsh grass of the Doctor's farm. Mr. Middleton has, in his enclosure, a great deal of this marsh land, now valueless, which, we believe, he is now about to turn to good account with these animals.

The water oxen disregard mud or bogs, and are hence well adapted, as working oxen, in such lands. A great part of the day they spend in Ashley River and an artificial pond on the Doctor's farm, with only the nose out of water. They grow to an enormous size, the cows, tolerable milkers, and very fair as beef cattle.

We are thus particular in this notice, hoping that the planters on our extensive marshes and rivers, where the freshets are so destructive to cattle, will examine into the capabilities of these animals, and avail themselves of this facility of importation.—*Charleston Mercury*.

CERTAIN CURE FOR FOOTAIL IN SHEEP.

The following receipt was handed to me by Mr. Thomas Wilkinson of England. I tried it successfully myself, and feel confident in recommending it to others as an effectual cure for this troublesome disease.

Take of quicksilver, one ounce, aquafortis, (nitric acid) two ounces, and put them together in a glass bottle; place it in the sun, or in a warm place, with the cork out till dissolved, when it is ready for use; cut the hoof away, as far as diseased; dip a feather in the mixture, and be careful to anoint the diseased part all over. After this, keep the sheep in a dry place for eight or ten hours.—They seldom require more than one dressing if properly done. It will be necessary, also, to wet the feet of the sheep not diseased, with turpentine, to prevent it spreading further amongst the flock.

HUGH EATON.

N. J., Sept., 1850.