

spread out in a field fermentation is stopped, and volatile matter ceases to escape. In the case of clay soils, I have no hesitation to say, that the manure may be spread even six months before it is plowed in, without losing any appreciable quantity of manuring matter.

7.—LIQUID MANURING.

I have practised this considerably on my farm, and find the trial to result in marked success. I collect the liquid manure of my farm in well covered tanks, puddled with clay, to prevent the loss or escape of the liquid. Each tank is divided by a wall into compartments, capable of holding each two or three months' supply. When the first is full the stream is turned into the second, and, by the time this is full, the first is fit for land. I always apply it in a fermenting state.

The fresh urine of cattle, &c., ought to be mixed with its own bulk of water, by which the loss of ammonia is prevented, as also the caustic effects of urine on the land. Sulphuric acid or burned gypsum may also be added to fix the ammonia. One thousand pounds of urine contains sixty-eight pounds of solid rich fertilizing matter.

8.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Every farmer who can afford it should send his sons to a course of chemistry, (agricultural if possible) at a good college. Farmers should combine in every village, and raise a "Farmers' Reading Club," for mutual instruction in agricultural and other useful ideas. I started one 30 miles from my farm a year ago, and we now have farmers coming to the meeting (twice a week, when not busy, and oftener) who live at a distance of ten and twenty miles. We have a subscription of \$1 for those who can pay; \$2 is for *life* membership. However, every one is admitted free and allowed to partake in the discussion. The members write out their ideas, and altogether we find our "Farmers' Society" benefiting every individual member who attends.

To be Continued.

DO I DON'T THE FARMERS WRITE IN THEIR PAPER? STABLING COWS, SAWDUST FOR BEDDING, &C.

EDITOR OF THE AGRICULTURIST.—It does seem strange while the U. S. Agricultural papers are so full of correspondence, that the Agricultural paper published in Upper Canada should have to make so many complaints to Canadian Farmers for not writing for their own paper. What is the reason? It has been said that people don't like to write for nothing and pay the postage too, but this surely is no reason with any of the long list of farmers who are receiving every year a share of money given by Government for the encouragement of agriculture. What is the reason? Is it laziness? If not let some one that

knows the reason tell it with a view to a remedy.

You ask for facts and experience, I will give you a little in that way, and if you think it worth putting in the *Agriculturist* you can do so. I have been in the habit of tying my cows up in the winter. This year I did not take them in until December, they were fed in the yard, had a shed to go in when they chose, and water near by. After they were taken in and tied up they gave about one third more milk, fed the same as before, viz: hay in the morning, turnips at noon and straw at night,—except at the commencement of foddering before I got any straw thrashed, they had hay both night and morning—and let out to water once a day and immediately taken in again.

This winter I have commenced to bed them with sawdust and find it much better than straw for keeping them clean. They stand on planks raised a little above the floor with a view to keep them dry and clean, but notwithstanding all my care in bedding them with straw they would always be dirty. This winter as I said, I bed them with sawdust and they are almost as clean as they are in summer at pasture. My wife says it is a pleasure to go in to milk them now, they are so clean, and look so comfortable.

I am, yours, &c.,

J. W.

THE POTATO DISEASE.

LONDON, C. W., Feb. 1863.

EDITOR OF THE AGRICULTURIST,—DEAR SIR, —May I take the liberty to submit to you a few remarks upon a subject that concerns all of us. I allude herein to the sanitary condition of the potato and its treatment. I would beg it may be understood that it is not my intention to enter into any controversy, not only from the fact of my being a mere novice, but also from a desire to avoid contention. Notwithstanding all that has been written by those whose endeavours have been lent to explain the first cause of the potato disease, as also the cure of the disease, unfortunately nothing in reality has been made conclusive. That the malady at the on-set established itself in an epidemical form, into the fair fields of Europe, there is no doubt, and thousands of poor creatures had then starvation staring them in the face, in consequence of the direful ravages made by the plague that fastened its blighting grasp upon the poor people's principal food. And did they not some of them die of starvation in consequence? We know they did, and that the same disease now prevails both in Europe and in the greater part of this vast continent there can be no room for denial. The study of this most essential and important article of food, is very interesting, and should *now* occupy more largely the attention of the farmers in general, than has been the case.

As to the history of the potato we need not refer to that, further than to point to the feasi-