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BLACK QUARTER.

As a number of Cows have lately died of this disease, we wish to call attention to its contagious nature, being convinced that proper precautions would prevent the greater part of the losses on this source. The stable in which a sick animal has been, should be thoroughly cleaned, smoked with sulphur, and that part of it was near the standing of the sick one, whitewashed with lime, before any other cattle are allowed to enter it. It would be most prudent always to bury the dead animals without skinning them. If they are skinned, it should always be remembered that the disease can be communicated to man by inoculation, and that it is dangerous to touch the parts that are blackened with settled blood, with any part where there is a scratch. The disease has in several instances, been communicated to horses and swine which were in the same stable with sick Cows.

The person who has attended the diseased creature, should always change his clothes before he goes among other cattle.

The progress of this disease is so rapid, that the animals often die before it has been observed that they were sick: of course there can be but little chance of relief from any medicine; but there may be an opportunity for making a trial, we would recommend a dose of three pints, or two quarts of Molasses, a remedy which we have known to give sudden relief in violent inflammation which attacked a Cow soon after calving.

ASHES.

Ashes should always be preserved in a dry place for manure, and be spread upon grass land, either in the beginning of May, or early after haymaking, at the rate of forty bushels to the acre, and will have a very perceivable effect upon land that has formerly been frequently manured. By applying the ashes at a time when the grass is beginning to grow, the potash will be preserved, and would have been, in a great measure lost, had it been exposed to the rains of winter by spreading it in the fall. About three times the quantity of leached ashes should be used, and it should be applied at the same seasons, as it generally contains a considerable quantity of sulphate of potash, which being a salt that is easily dissolved, remains after the free potash is washed out. Lime in leached ashes is in an excellent state for manure, being saturated with carbonic acid which it has taken from the Potash, and has been used to mix with peat earth, which after being

frequently turned, has been praised as a top dressing for grass; but for this purpose the swamp soil ought to be thrown upon the dry land and exposed to the air for several months, frequently turning it. Oxygen gas is a principal agent in decomposing animal and vegetable matter so as to fit it for the nourishment of vegetables, but peat generally contains iron in a state that attracts and fixes the oxygen, thus preventing decomposition. A considerable quantity of vitriolic water usually enters peat swamps, and the iron in vitriol is in the state of Protoxide, or a combination of one part iron and one of oxygen; now one part of iron will also combine with two, and with three parts of Oxygen, in which last case it is called Peroxyde, and is harmless, if not useful to vegetation. By exposure oxygen will be extracted from the atmosphere which will change the Protoxide to Peroxide.

Ashes produce sweet wholesome grass, excellent for soiling, but cattle ought not to be fed with fresh grass from land manured with fresh stable dung, or other rank manure, as it will expose them to sickness.

Neither ashes nor lime should ever be mixed with Stable manure, because it will immediately liberate, and occasion the loss of a quantity of ammonia, a very useful part of the manure, as any person may satisfy himself by mixing a little with dung that has begun to ferment, and working it over, when the strong scent of the ammonia will be perceived immediately, and often the eyes will be affected by it. For the same reason lime and ashes should not be added to heaps of manure that contain the offal of fish or other animal matter.

PLOUGHING MATCHES.

The utility of these exhibitions is great and undoubted. Strange as it may seem, yet it is a fact, that not long since ploughing was very badly performed in many parts of England, and even during the past season at a ploughing match in that country attended by a large number of ploughmen, nearly all had drivers to their horses and worked them in a line, or one before another, but wherever ploughing matches are introduced and kept up, the young men soon learn to drive their own teams, and to plough strait furrows. When the great saving of labour, and improvement in the work that is produced by good ploughing, is observed; it would be well for farmers to reflect whether many other practices that are continued because they are ancient, may not be capable of as much improvement. The following extracts of a letter from an old Yorkshire farmer, now settled in this country, will give an idea of what English farming once was, in some parts where it is now of a high character.—“Farming only began to be alive at the commencement of the French war. The population was suddenly greatly increased by the vast body of emigrants from the continent who fled to England, and at the same time the taxes were prodigiously increased. The farmers were roused, finding it necessary to bestir themselves in earnest. Agricultural Societies were formed, and by introducing improvements they slowly rose to their present state.”—“At the time I was first able to drive the plough, soon after the termination of the first American war, rents and produce were low, farmers had little animation, never striving to pay their rents with any part of their crop, but waiting till they could sell a cow, a few sheep, or a fat pig, the poor and county