Quite coarse and apparently unpromising materials may be converted into finely pulverized fertilizers by means of some fermentation, and working over after rotting together for some months. In this connection, and for illustration, the mode by which fine manure is sometimes made for the nicer gardening operations, may be alluded to. The various coarse and fibrous matters, or common manure, is alternated in layers with road dust, turf, leaves, &c., and made into a square heap. A depression is made in the top in the form of a shallow kettle, to receive slops or liquid manure. The heap should be kept moist by the supply in this reservoir, but not so wet that the air cannot penetrate it to promote fermentation. In the course of a few months the heap will be ready to work over In large quantities, this manure will be a capital thing for top dressing the ground when sowing winter wheat; on a small scale and finely pulverized with a due amount of sand, it will answer well for window-gardening.

Country Gentleman.

Killing Daisies and Thistles.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—Many farmers fail to find time to pull thistles and mustard in grain, and white and yellow daisies in meadows. Where grain-fields are full of thistles, or yellow with mustard, the grain must be destroyed if an attempt is made to remove these weeds by hand. Such fields ought never to have been sowed to grain, as no more than an unprofitable half-crop can be expected—often not that. Fields that are overrun with weeds should be thoroughly summer fallowed, not simply plowed once after spring work and before haying, and the weeds allowed to run to seed during the rest of the season, but plowed well at least a half-dozen times, commencing in early spring and extending until late fall, with the pulverizer kept at work in the intervals between plowings. The farmer who does this work conscientiously will be most agreeably surprised at the good results accomplished in a single season. Although land may be full of weeds, seeds germinate and are destroyed by subsequent cultivation. Land cannot be cleaned while foul seeds lie dormant in the soil. There are fields which have comparatively little of mustard or thistles, and these should be removed by hand before they ripen their seeds. Thistles and mustard, both, mature faster than grain, and can be removed early enough in the season, so that the work will not materially injure the grain. This work should be attended to at once.

This is the time when the meadows should be searched for white and yellow daisies. Unless they have blossomed, it will require a close search to discover all the daisies. If the grass is light, it is more convenient to wait until the daisies are in blossom, as it is then much easier to get them all. It is somewhat difficult to go over a meadow that will cut from two or three tons of grass per acre, and make a clean job of pulling daisies, unless they are in blossom, and even then, such rank grass is quite apt to hide the daisies. The proper method is for a man to take a sharp hoe and a basket, using the hoe to cut up the daisies, roots and all, and putting them into the basket to carry them from the field. On account of the difficulty of finding the plants in the grass, it is advisable to go over the meadows twice, at an interval of a week or ten days. If the daisies are pulled and thrown down in the grass, the chances are that, sheltered by the grass, they will take root and ripen their seeds. It also a good plan when operating the mower to stop and dig up any daisies which escaped the first examination, and in such a case it is advisable to burn them, as the seeds are apt to be well matured. There is a very useful implement manufactured for the express purpose of digging daisies. It is similar to a hoe, except the edge is notched into several sharp teeth, which makes it much more efficient than an ordinary hoe.

It is a very good plan to mow a meadow early, if it is in any way foul. To say nothing of the quality of hay made from an early cutting, it certainly is worth while to cut the weeds early enough to prevent their ripening the seeds. I also suggest that if it is suspected that any manure on the farm is made from hay or grain containing foul seeds, it is a good practice to pile it up for six or eight months before using it. Such a course will be very apt to prevent the germination of foul seeds. Daisies rarely grow in grain, and mustard just as rarely in meadows. A heavy crop of clover is sure death to daisies. They seem to be smothered by the ranker growth of clover, and fail to mature their seeds. In a field where there is a growth of daisies, a generous use of fertilizers, especially of barnyard manure, and keeping the field seeded to clover, using an extra quantity of seed for this purpose, and breaking up every two years, cultivating for a while and again seeding to clover thickly, will finally eradicate the daisies. F. K. MORELAND.

St. Lawrence County, N. Y.

Management of Poultry Manure.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—A subscriber to your paper writes me a private note asking what I consider the best method of preserving and preparing poultry manure for use. This is a matter of general interest, and I beg space enough to reply to this question in this way:

Poultry manure is the most valuable of our home-made fertilizers: but, like all other manures, it is not because it is made by fowls that it is so valuable, but because of the peculiarly rich feeding of the fowls. This should not be forgotten in regard to all kinds of manure, because we can make them rich or poor as we feed the animals well or ill. Poultry manure of the ordinary kind is more or less valuable, according to its condition, as is shown here: There are in 1,000 pounds of hen manure 560 pounds of water, 16.3 of nitrogen, 8.5 of potash, and 15.4 of phosphoric acid. In 1,000 pounds of guano there are 148 pounds of water, 130 of nitrogen, 23 of potash, and 130 of phosphoric acid.

But if we get rid of the excess of water in the poultry manure, we nearly double its proportionate value, and bring it so much nearer in quality to guano. Again, guano is reduced by decomposition to a very soluble condition, and its actual value is increased because of the immediate availability of its elements. If we can, then, so prepare hen manure as to make its potential value available at once, we further add to its actual value, and bring it still nearer in comparison to the value of the standard fertilizer guano. Now this we can do, as suggested by my correspondent, by preparation. But this preparation must be such as will not waste any volatile element, which may be set loose in the decomposition, and that yet will produce the required decomposition. I have studied and experimented over this matter, and think I have got this manure in its most available condition, because I have increased its solubility four times above that of its fresh condition. Further, I have added to its fertilizing value by adding to the feed of my fowls bran and crushed fresh raw bones, which they consume with avidity, and with the best results as regards their health, production of eggs, and the certainly of hatching and producing strong chicks. But these are mentioned only by the way. In testing poultry manure with corn and melons, compared with stable manure and guano, I find a large handful of the former to be equal in every way to a heaping shovelful of the best stable manure, and a small handful (about one-fourth as much) of guano. The manure is prepared in the following manner: Every week the droppings are scraped up from the floor, which is of earth, and put into barrels and kept ready. The floor is then well dusted all over with earth dug from the yard out-