

In the manufacture of some of the best of these "disinfected nightsoils," charcoal powder, burnt clay, and other similar porous substances, are used to absorb the gases evolved.

The most economical mode of using nightsoil is, probably, to allow it to putrify, diluted with water, and mixed with a considerable quantity of vegetable matter; and to employ it as a liquid manure. Of course this cannot be done when it is intended subsequently to carry it to a distance.

The dung of different animals varies considerably in its value as manure, depending in great part on the substances which constitutes their food; that of those which live on animal food, being of course richer in nitrogen than that of vegetable feeders. The value of those kinds used as manure are in the following order:—Pig's dung, nightsoil, sheep and rabbits' dung, horse dung, and cow dung; the first being that of most value.

In manuring land, by feeding off with sheep, not only does the land receive a large quantity of valuable manure from the dung, urine, and perspiration of the animals, but it likewise has its mechanical texture materially modified by the constant treading of the sheep.

#### FATTENING OF CATTLE.

M. Payen read a paper on the comparative advantages of the use of oil-cake from linseed, and the seed in its natural state in the fattening of cattle, at a sitting of the Academy of Sciences, Paris, on the 21st ult. M. Payen concludes from the result of a long series of experiments made in this country by Messrs. Crespel Delisle and Tiburce Crespel, as well as from what has been published on the subject in England, that there is more profit to the fatterer in the use of ground linseed mixed with the other food of animals than in the use of oil-cake, which, although, so much cheaper as to the bulk, is really more expensive when the quantity of oily matter removed by pressure is taken into account. A great deal, however, must, we conceive, depend on the price at which the oil-cake is offered for sale in different localities. There are some parts of France in which the ignorance of the persons who fatten cattle for the markets, as to the advantages of feeding on oil-cake is so great, that they will not purchase it at any price, and in order to obtain a market for it, all the owners of the oil-mills where the seed is are compelled to export it to England. On the other hand, however, it is to be observed that if the value of oil-cake in the fattening of cattle were to be generally appreciated, the price of the article would be enhanced, so it is really important to ascertain the difference that there would be in the cost of feeding with linseed or with linseed-cake at such a price as it would probably realize, if it were used here as extensively as it is in England. According to the table, which was produced by M. Payen, the quantity of azote in linseed in its natural state, is only 3.33 per cent., whereas in the

oil-cake it is six per cent.; but the proportion of what he calls *matière grasse* in the cake, is at 7.5, whereas in the seed it is 35.5, and the experiments that have been made are decidedly in favour of the use of the seed. The reading of this paper by M. Payen, will, we trust, excite the attention of cattle feeders generally, and induce them to try experiments on a large scale. At present the feeding of cattle in France is very badly managed, compared with what is done in England, and it is only by watching what is done there that the feeders can hope to place themselves on a level with the English feeders. We would take this opportunity of suggesting the use of a mixed food for cattle, in which linseed should form the principal ingredient in the form of bread. We have heard of a gentleman farmer in the north of France, who feeds his cattle on bread composed of potatoes, oats, barley and linseed, in regulated quantities, and a much larger proportion of clover or lucerne hay, and straw prepared in a peculiar way. Thus the animal has at once nutrition and bulk, and none of its food wasted, as is the case when fodder is used in the ordinary way.

#### PETERBOROUGH FARMERS' CLUB

At the monthly meeting on the discussion of "The application of Manures in towns and villages running now to waste, and detrimental to the healthy condition of the inhabitants" the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That it is of importance that every farmer collect in a tank all the liquid manure possible, to mix with ashes or soil, and to assist in converting all refuse matter into useful dressing for land." The subject was proposed and introduced by W. E. Griffin, Esq., of Werrington, who remarked that the loss sustained by neglecting to obtain this manure in London alone was not less than one million a year; that is, simply with regard to its value for agricultural purposes, to say nothing of the sanitary improvement to the inhabitants; which, of course, should be a matter of weighty consideration. Mr. Griffin strongly advised liquid manure tanks being fixed in every farm-yard, and spoke of his having this year a good crop of turnips, and that he confidently believed the application of the liquid manure mixed with ashes was the principal cause of their present healthy state. He also remarked at great length upon the necessity of general attention to this subject, stating that much benefit would be obtained. Mr. Webster, Mr. Edgson, Mr. Whitwell, and other members of the club, spoke on the subject supporting Mr. Griffin's views; and after the resolution had been agreed upon, Mr. J. Webster proposed for discussion at the next monthly meeting the following subject:—"Why has not agriculture made the same progress that manufactures and commerce have done? and what are the great impediments which still remain to practical agriculture?"