AGRICULTURAL.

Renovating Old Pastures.—*Messrs. Editors:*—How to renovate old pastures is becoming daily a more important question to us Connecticut farmers, on poor, stony, hilly land, and we must find some better way than has been in use heretofore.

I have 50 to 60 acres of hill pasture, with a constant tendency to [illegible] birches, briers, and brakes, and wish to adopt some method of renovating a part of it yearly, but am much at a loss how to do this. The soil is not as poor as is usual hereabouts, and has a kindly eastern exposure, sheltered from cold winds, but it is remote, and somewhat difficult of access, on a steep, rocky hillside. My predecessor drew manure up the long hill, and by dint of hard labor, obtained a decent crop. Part of the land was under cultivation two or three years, was then seeded down, and is now (some five years) very indifferent pasture. Some parts are too rocky for plowing, but these are usually moist with springs, and, I hardly need add, grow fern and brakes faster than I can cut them. The distance and the difficulty of access forbid the use of stable manure, even if it could be spared for the purpose, and I seek some other means of renovation. Ashes I can procure—both leached and unleached—at a cost of about [illegible] cents per bushel, and also some quantity *of [illegible]* [illegible] savings, but these latter are, of course, expensive. The land would perhaps, start a small crop of buckwheat, rye, or even clover, and various methods of green manuring have occurred to me—as sowing clover, using plaster and ashes freely as soon as well up, then plowing in early, in hope of a second crop, or sowing rye as a second crop for spring pasturage, or turning hogs on the clover before plowing in, and getting a crop of turnips.

Clover is, I think, our best green manure.—Rye has not, to my knowledge, been used here in this way, and my experience of buckwheat is unfavorable.

Is it best to continue green manuring for two seasons, or to plant hoed crops the second year? Shall I use ashes solely as a top-dressing, or plow it in? And in what quantity? Will it pay to use guano or horn-dust, and if so, how shall they be applied? I do not care to raise crops on this land, as I have more, close at home, than I keep in good heart, though my resources are more ample in the way of manures than usual in the country; but I desire to keep it in pasture, with the least expense of care. Perhaps I ought to state that our subsoil is very open—gravel, or often round stone, more seldom sand—requiring constant renowal of manuring; and for grass land, re-seeding, every two or three years. H. C.

In plowing under clover, we would recommend that it be done the second year, or the year after seeding, and that ashes and plaster be used in connection with raising clover.—Guano may be tried by way of experiment, and is best applied as a top-dressing in autumn; but may do if sown very early in spring, or as soon as the frost is out. Two or three hundred pounds per acre will do to begin with. Ashes are high, as a manure, at 15c. per bushel; and at this rate, we would not propose more than 30 or 40 bushels per acre. It may, like guano, be applied as a top-dressing, in autumn, winter, or early in spring. A portion of stable manure may be used in connection with these fertilizers; but it should be applied in autumn as a top-dressing, and finely spread, so as to become thoroughly soaked into the soil by the commencement of growth. Horn-dust should be plowed in when used, and must be looked upon as an experiment merely, although it has often produced a great increase in growth. There is no crop nearly equal to clover for green manuring, but probably a year or two of other crops should intervene before re-seeding. We are inclined to think, however, that scarifying and top-dressing with manure, guano, ashes, plaster, &c., with heavy re-seeding when necessary, may be sufficient. However, there is so much difference in soils, &c., in different localities, that a trial only can determine this point.—*Country Gentleman.*

Egyptian, or Mummy Corn.—Perhaps the most wonderful and interesting specimens of the fruits of the earth in the Horticultural Exhibition recently closed, was some Egyptian corn, raised in the gardens Plain, and kindly sent by him for exhibition, thus giving thousands an opportunity of seeing one of the greatest curiosities within our knowledge. The seed from which this corn was raised, was taken from the folds of cloth wrapped around a mummy three or four thousand years ago, and, wonderful as it may seem, after being entombed for so many centuries, like a resurrection from the dead, it springs up in new life and vigor. It is undoubtedly the kind of grain for which Joseph's brethren went into the land of Egypt—the same "corn" of which the Bible speaks. It is luxuriant in its growth. Of that of Gen. William H Sumner, of Jamaica, the heads resemble wheat, but are very much larger, forming in inverted conical clusters as large as the closed hand; the kernels are large and very sweet to the taste, and the stock and leaves are similar to our Indian corn. There seems to be no reason why it may not become a valuable addition to our cereal productions, and thanks are due to the gentlemen who are multiplying it and bringing it into notice.—*Boston Journal.*

Putting Lime into Hay.—It is said that lime slacked to powder and sprinkled upon clover partially dried when it is put into the barn, will act as an absorbent, prevent heat and fermentation, and that the clover will come out in good condition in winter, and cattle eat it readily and thrive well upon it. We would not do it. If cattle were sick and need a little lime water, give it to them but do not compel them to eat caustic lime daily, or let the hay alone and starve. If lime must be used in hay, then dissolve it, and use clear lime water only. But salt is far better.—*Agriculturist.*

Veterinary.

Rough Notes on Contraction of the Hoof.—A correspondent informs us that he has a valuable mare, the subject of *contracted feet*, and desires to know if faulty shoeing is not the cause of the same.

Altered structure, corns, and various other affections of horse's feet, are often attributed to the above cause, and no doubt a rational and improved method of preparing the foot, and adjusting a suitable shoe for the same, may lessen the liability to some such diseases; yet we contend there are other causes than the above, over which the blacksmith has little, if any control. We allude to that universal law, termed hereditary predisposition; which provides that "like shall produce like." We know that the Black Hawk, Messenger, and many other permanent varieties of breeds, transmit to their offspring a peculiarity of form, temperament, quality, and color, by which the lineage of the latter can with certainty be determined. And should the parent labor under any *permanent* disease, defect or vice, the same is very apt to be, directly or indirectly, transmitted. The very color of the hair, accompanied by particular and distinctive markings, often extend and re-appear thro' several generations. Hence, a colt begotten by a sire defective in so important a part of the animal economy as the feet, ("no foot no horse,") must necessarily, in accordance with *nature's* immutable law, inherit the same *idiosyncrasy*.—Therefore, the very best system of shoeing practised on *nature's* criminals, would fail, when attempting to reverse *her* decrees.

A horse, inheriting the least predisposition to faulty feet, is at all times liable, when used for draught, or speed, on paved thoroughfares, to disease of the same, which may end in *contraction*, it being, in nine cases out of ten, the result of primary disease of the foot.

A defect in the conformation of a horse's foot, may be so slight as to escape *ordinary* observation, yet the defect is there, liable to augmentation, and sooner or later the evil is discovered.

That a tendency to contraction of horses' feet does lurk in some breeds, we have abundant authoritative proof to offer, if necessary; consequently, faulty shoeing cannot be classed as the direct cause of contraction.

A point-blank argument in favor of the blacksmith in this view, is founded on the fact, that contraction of the hind feet, which undergo the same system of shoeing, seldom, if ever, become the seat of this deformity. Among our truck horses, may be found many of the Pennsylvania, New York, and Vermont breeds, that have to endure all the evils of shoeing, as well as domestication; yet a great proportion of them enjoy immunity from contracted feet. Therefore, the latter are not predisposed; they have good open heels, the foot is well proportioned in all its parts, and bears a symmetrical relationship in size, form, and action, to the limb and body, which it aids to support and move.

Hence contraction, as well as many other forms of disease which are observed in the feet of the horse, have their origin in hereditary predisposition; therefore, it is a matter of impossibility for a smith to make a good foot out of one that was originally defective.—*Am. Veterinary Journal.*

On the Sensitive Faculty of a Horse's Foot.—The sensitive faculty of the foot is to be found in its nervous and membranous tissues; for it is well known that the hoof, sole, bars, and horny frog, are insensible—the medium through which the sense of touch is developed or aroused.

By this wisely-planned arrangement, a horse can, with considerable degree of accuracy, ascertain the nature of the ground over which he is travelling, and thus regulate the action and force of his limbs, so as to favor his feet, and lessen the concussion, which if he were destitute of this sense of feeling, must occur throughout the whole animal fabric.

As a familiar illustration of this peculiar sense of touch, suppose a person places in contact with his teeth, a piece of ice, or applies warm water to the same, he immediately experiences a sensation of heat or chilliness, as the case may be. This occurs, simply by contact or touch; the teeth, like the hoof and its horny appendages, being devoid of sensibility; yet both have nervous filaments on their interior surfaces. Within the tooth we find the dental nerve, and within the hoof is also found a similar arrangement, only on a more extensive and magnificent plan. The teeth and hoofs, therefore, may be said to be analogous in function, so far as the transmission of sensibility is concerned, and at the same time they offer a wall of defence and protection to nerves, which are too delicate to come in contact with crude matter. Therefore, the horse's hoof is to the foot, just what the tooth is to the dental nerve.

Some horses, however, appear, while travelling over the road, to be governed by the sense of hearing, as well as that of sensation. Mr. Percivall has remarked, that "blind horses are observed to lift their fore legs in a manner that would indicate they are sounding the ground, after the fashion of a *blind man* with a stick; therefore, they may be said to see with their feet.—*Am. Veterinary Journal.*

Stringhalt.—Mr. Feron informs us, that this singular spasmodic affection is esteemed graceful in some continental countries; at least when it exists in both hinder legs, as it frequently does, being, however, usually confined to one side: very seldom, indeed, is it found in the fore, of which we have seen but one or two instances at the most. It is evidently a spasmodic contraction of some one or more of the flexors of the leg, which usually ceases after the animal is in motion; it is the consequence of local irritation or of pressure on some nervous fibrila, which the excitement of exercise renders less acute; and generally restores the action of the legs to its natural condition. It is not hereditary or congenital, and seldom appears until the approach to the adult age. It is injurious, inasmuch as it unfits the horse for certain purposes, as racing, delaying the start so long as to give away every advantage. It is considered incurable; and therefore any and all treatment is useless, save for experiment.—*Exchange.*