

crop from putting off the cutting of it for even two or three days. Generally it may be cut by the reaper, and if cut when about half-ripe, it may lie in the swarth a day or two before being raked up and carried to the barn. The straw being less flinty than that of wheat, the crop becomes very liable to lodge, especially if heavy rains and high winds occur when it is in bloom. Should the crop stand up fairly at harvest time, it is the best plan to have it bound in sheaves and shocked at once. This, however, is rarely done, most farmers preferring to leave it in the swarth, and rake it into small cocks before being carried to the barn. This requires less labor and trouble, but results in more loss than if the crop were bound and shocked at once, and should a wet season come the barley in swarth or cock will be apt to become much discolored and damaged, while if in shock it can be capped at once on the approach of rain. One thing ought particularly to be attended to, and that is, not to allow the different qualities to get mixed together in the mow, or at thrashing time. A very little of it may get discolored by rain, and this thrown in along with the rest, spoils the marketable appearance of the whole crop. Better keep that which is clean and bright separate from the other, in order to get a higher price for it. Buyers are much more particular in selecting this grain than any other, and a little care and judgment at harvesting and thrashing times may put a good many extra dollars in the pocket of the grower.—*Globe*.

STIRRING THE SOIL IN SUMMER.

During the driest weather there exists the greatest necessity for constantly stirring the soil among the corn and root crops. It may seem an anomaly to most farmers, yet it is nevertheless true, that the more you stir the soil during the dry season the more moisture can the crop imbibe. The freshly stirred soil is a great attractor of moisture and ammonia from the atmosphere, and what is imbibed at the surface during the night, especially when the dews are heavy, is quickly conveyed down to the roots of the plants grown on the surface. Even on the lightest soils, the advantages of the practice are great. Our farmers do not yet sufficiently appreciate the advantage to be derived from a frequent use of the horse-hoe or turnip cultivator. Instead of one only being kept, every farmer who grows five acres or more of roots should have one for every five acres he puts in corn, potatoes, or other roots, so that every available horse on the farm can be put to work in the early mornings and evenings, to run the implements between the rows as often as possible, even though it should be on land that is perfectly clean, and seemingly not requiring such work to be done to it. When rain falls this can be suspended till the moisture is absorbed into the soil. Keep the cultivators going whenever possible, and you will reap rich results in a larger and better yield of corn or roots, more than will ten times overbalance the additional labor, which can be generally given when least available elsewhere.—*Globe*.

AMERICAN AND ENGLISH MOWING MACHINES.

Reaping and mowing machines have now be-

come standard implements on English farms, but in France they are still regarded somewhat as innovations; the lower rate of wages across the channel having hitherto acted as a barrier to the introduction of labor-saving machines in agriculture. Wages, however, are rising in France, as in most other countries, and the attention, therefore, of agriculturists is directed to the best form of reaping and mowing machine. Several international trials of these machines are announced for the coming summer. The first came off last week at Bourges, 123 miles south of Paris, at which there was a very sharp contest between the English and American machines. The *Ironmonger* states that after a long and careful trial the award was given in favor of the English machines of Messrs Howard, of Bedford, which in mowing an acre beat the far famed American machines of Mr. W. A. Wood, and Mr. McCormick, by eighteen minutes. American manufacturers must look to their laurels.—*Scientific American*.

FARM GLEANINGS.

Prof. Caldwell says in France and Germany, clover is put in pits when cut and allowed to ferment slightly; it comes out tender and excellent.

A genuine Yankee at Lisbon, Ct., wanting to put a water-pipe through a drain several feet below the surface without digging up the drain, tied a string to a cat's leg, thrust her into one end of the drain, and giving a terrific "scat!" the feline quickly appeared at the other end. The pipe was drawn through the drain by means of the line, and an expense of ten dollars saved by the operation.

The favorable working weather of the present season may enable farmers to profit by some hints in the *Herald of Health*, to the effect that boys do not like to dig potatoes from frozen ground, or gather corn when the husks are stiff with ice. The failure to do work in season, which results from a miserable slack and slipshod management, is what often sends away the hired man, and estranges the affections of the boys from the homestead.

A correspondent of the *Boston Cultivator* says: I have an unscientific way of dissolving bones. I save all the bones and put them into a boiler with a quantity of good hard wood ashes, pour in water enough to make a thick porridge and boil from two to three hours, when the bones will be completely broken down; then add an equal bulk of dry muck or loam, and one peck of plaster to every two bushels of mixture, and you have an excellent fertilizer for any kind of soil.

Dr. Morse, editor of the *Journal of Agriculture* at St. Louis, recently stated in the St. Louis Farmers Club that he considered it, as a rule, a slovenly practice to stack hay. All of the outside of the stack, at least, will be weather-beaten and worthless. The loss by stacking will be enough in a few years to build a barn, or at least cheap sheds for hay. He is not certain that it would not pay to use hay caps. In some precarious seasons, they would be very useful. He would at least like to see them tried.

At a late discussion on making hay, by the Herkimer County, N. Y., Farmers' Club, Mr. Burdick asked if a poorer quality of hay had not been made since the introduction of the mowing machine, up to the time of the introduction of the tedder. The members were decided in their opinion that such