

as a matter of course, that every remove from the manured root crop renders the success of the grasses more and more doubtful, and it may happen that even top-dressings will not serve to counteract the deficiency. This will be found to arise, to a considerable extent, from the fact that the manures applied as top-dressings are wasted in stimulating the growth of weeds, or natural grasses of comparatively little value, which are indigenous to the soil, and which thrive to the detriment of the more valuable grasses.

The next condition therefore to be observed in laying down land in grass is, that it shall be as free from weeds as it is possible to make it. This ought to be effected in the previous preparation and cultivation of the land; no after treatment will be sufficient. There are many who seem to imagine that if their fields are covered with something which gives them a green appearance, they have got pasture, but whether it is of a suitable nature for the support of cattle or sheep, is another question.

As an illustration of this we give the following list of plants, which are actually worthless weeds found in a square yard of grass land :

Plants.	Plants.
Narrow-leaved Plantain.....7	Self-heal.....4
Creepling Crofoot.....3	Small Birdweed.....1
Hardhead.....2	Foot's Parsley.....1
Dandelion.....3	Mouse Ear.....2
Autumnal Hawkbit.....1	Field Madder.....6
Ground Ivy.....6	Common Cuckoo.....2
Creepling Bent.....4	

There were thus thirteen different kind of weeds, numbering altogether forty-six plants, in the square yard, leaving very little room for the clovers, rye grass and other valuable grasses, which in fact, had died out owing to the encroachment of worthless intruders.—*Irish Farmers Gazette.*

COUCH GRASS.

A recent number of the *London Agricultural Gazette* begins its leading article by asking the question "What is the plant which most occupies the attention and engages the interest of the British farmer?" Strange to say, this is the reply to the question: "It is *Couch Grass.*" This question and answer not only indicate that British farmers are excessively troubled by this pest of the soil, but it is one of many proofs of that anxiety and diligence in regard to the extirpation of weeds, which many slovenly Canadian farmers would do well to take both as a rebuke and a lesson.

Couch grass is already very troublesome in many parts of this country, and the greatest pains ought to be taken in order to annihilate it. Yes, annihilate is the word; nothing short of utter extinction will do, and that is no easy task. The *Genee Farmer* referring to this nuisance, speaks of a noted farmer who had considerable experience with couch grass, and who was asked by a neighbour the best way to destroy it. With a merry twinkle of the eye, he replied, "Fork it up carefully, so as not to leave

a particle of root in the ground. Then put it on the top of a stump, where the sun can scorch it. Then take a stone and hammer it out flat.—If the wind does not blow it off the stump, I think it will die in the course of the summer or winter following." In this jocose method, the wonderful tenacity of life which characterizes this species of grass, was well brought out. It can only be got rid of by a war to the knife of downright extermination.

BONES.

There is a wealth of manure of the best quality in bones, and they should by all means be preserved and turned to good account. Even the small quantity comparatively, which is thrown away as the waste of the family kitchen, is by no means to be despised. There are various methods by which they may be prepared for application to the soil. Most bones may be broken up by a heavy iron hammer or mallet, but for immediate effect it is desirable to reduce them to a state of greater fineness, in fact, to bonedust. They may be burned, and then readily reduced to an impalpable powder. Pile up with wood, they burn easily, and it is said a wheelbarrow load of wood will burn a tun of raw bones, leaving a mixed white and coaly mass, which is very easily broken up. Bones may be prepared for use by fermentation. There are various ways of doing this. The bones, either whole or broken into large pieces, which is the better mode, may be thrown into a box, barrel, or hogshead, and let down into the ground in a moist place, where the drainage of the cow-yard, the urine from a privy, soapsuds, dishwater, or any water containing organic matter, liable to become putrescent, may keep them constantly moist. Any other refuse animal matter may be thrown into the same receptacle. In default of a suitable vessel, a hole in the ground will answer the purpose. Let it be two or three times as wide as it is deep, and if the bottom be of clay, it will be all the better. A coating of fresh stable manure to the depth of eight or ten inches, will hasten the process. Some coal dust, or charcoal finely broken, put under the manure will absorb the escaping ammonia and prevent an offensive smell. In from four to six weeks, the hard bones will have become so soft, that a spade may be forced through them easily. They should now be mixed with loam, decomposed muck, or well-rotted manure, and applied to the land. Another process is to pack away the bones in a hogshead or box, and mix good unleached wood ashes with them (about a bushel of ashes to a barrel of bones will do) pouring water or soapsuds over them: After five or six weeks, the water may be allowed to evaporate and