

important agricultural questions of the day, and also one of the most seasonable, if any one of them will give us his experience to publish for the benefit of the rest.—*Scottish Farmer*.

WOMEN AND FARM WORK.

President Abbot of the Michigan Agricultural College states that the experiment of admitting women to the institution has proved in the highest degree successful. "They study," he says, "botany, chemistry, horticulture, surveying, and other branches. Their progress in study is exceptionally rapid. Their work so far has been to prepare seed for the ground, to transplant the lighter plants, prune shrubbery," etc. Here is a career for all grades of women which has common-sense to commend it. There is no reason why girls should not be taught scientific agriculture as well as boys, and made fit to transact the head-work of the farm. Notwithstanding the inertness of the Southern women, it has long been no uncommon thing to find them intelligent and skillful planters. Some of the largest estates in Virginia before the war were under the management of women; and in Kentucky, among the most successful stock-raisers who amassed large fortunes by sales to the government, were some half-dozen of the fair sex. These women obtained their knowledge insensibly by home-training; but it is certainly as easily acquired by study as that of medicine or theology, and is surely a more wholesome and safer work.

The very lowest grades of farm-work ought to be open to women. There is a sort of chivalric horror in this country of a woman's doing field-work, whereas the fact is that half of the stout Irish and German women who come here have been used to it at home, and, with our negro field-hands, are among the few healthy women in the country.

The soil is light; the instruments for lightening labor are in general use. If half the women starving in New York to-day over needle and wash-tub were put at out-door work in the Spring, they would find themselves better paid for less actually exhausting labor, and in stronger health than ever before in their lives.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

DECOMPOSED BONES WITH ASHES.

A correspondent in Indiana, living in a wooded locality, desires information how to utilize bones at the least cost, and render them soonest available as manure. The process is a very simple one. In many parts of the State of Indiana, wood is chiefly used for fuel, and the value of the ashes for fertilizing purposes is very well understood. The lye stand takes considerable quantities, and after they do duty there, they go to the kitchen garden or the orchard, or some particular place where they are thought to be most needed. But there is a considerable surplus over the demand of the lye leach, and this surplus may be employed with perfect success in reducing bones to the condition of food for plants.

Bones should be saved, and if the prudent housewives throughout the country properly understood their value as a fertilizer, and how easily it is to reduce them to the proper condition, they would not permit them to be thrown away and lost. The

kitchen garden may be rendered much more productive by their use. They are worth twice as much as ashes for manure when reduced, and ashes will reduce them.

The method of doing this is to put ashes and bones into barrels or boxes under a shed, or ash-house, or cellar, in about equal quantities, and then keep them constantly moist with soap suds; if hot, so much the better. The water should not be applied in such quantities as to leach the ashes, as that would carry off much of the alkaline matter necessary to reduce the bones. Thus in a few months the bones will be entirely disintegrated, and the entire mass may be taken out and thoroughly mixed, ready for spreading and incorporating into the soil, and making a most excellent fertilizer for the kitchen garden, orchard, or field.—*Western Rural*.

FARM GLEANINGS.

Lucerne is highly recommended as a soiling crop. It is ready to cut in the Spring before red clover, and continues to yield heavy cuttings on ordinary soil throughout the Summer, no matter how hot or how dry.

It has been found possible by English chemists so to purify liquid sewage that after the process the water can be drunk without repugnance, fishes can live in it and it is without any tendency to putrify or emit any disagreeable odor.

Mr. Meehan, in the *Weekly Press*, says that botanists have no better reason for saying that Indian corn is indigenous to this country, than that it was found here when the country was discovered by the white man. Assuming that America was known to the Chinese long before, he thinks that it is to them that we are indebted for our corn, as it has certainly been known in China for a thousand years.

They have in China what is known as the grease tree. Large forests grow there, and the oleaginous product has become an article of traffic. The grease forms an excellent tallow, burning with a clear, brilliant, and—what is infinitely more to the purpose—white light, and at the same time emitting not a trace of any unpleasant odor, or of the ordinary disagreeable accompaniment of combustion—smoke.

The *Boston Journal of Chemistry* states that manure is never so valuable as when it is fresh. It then holds an association not only all the fixed soluble substances natural to the solid excrement, but much that is of great value found only in the liquid. It is in a condition to undergo quickly chemical change, and the gaseous, ammoniacal products secured are double these resulting from that which has been weathered in a heap out of doors for several months.

The report of the United States Department of Agriculture comes to the startling conclusion that such is the wholesale destruction of American forests, there will be an actual famine for wood in the country within thirty years, unless immediate measures are taken to supply their places by new plantation. It is estimated that from 1850 to 1860, 20,000,000 acres of timber land was brought under cultivation, and that in the present decade no less than a hundred millions will be so reclaimed. We