

FOR THE RURAL CANADIAN.

## A PLAIN FARMER'S IDEA ON TURNIP GROWING.

Yes, I am only a practical farmer. I don't know much about theory. My knowledge has been gained from practice, hard practice, though I don't dislike theory. So much do I admire it that I sent my son to the Agricultural College at Guelph, and he has come back chuck-full of theory; yes, chuck-full of it, sir, and now he is getting a little practice. On casting our eyes toward the barn-yard we observed the aforesaid theorist indulging in the healthy practice of load ing manure. Yes, I grow a good many turnips. Practice has taught me that for winter feeding stock they are about the best thing. My son says they are nearly all water, ninety per cent., I think he says. By the way, I see that some of the writers in your journal are down on turnip growing because they contain so much water, saying it would be easier to feed dry food and then fill the animals with water. That may be all very true, but the difficulty is to get them to fill up with water. Stuff them with chopped grain, but yet they will not drink heavily. You might just as well condemn feeding on grass, (which, to my mind, is the natural food of cattle, because I have read that the richest grasses are nearly all composed of water, and if we come down to the fine point, what is there that does not contain a great proportion of water? Flesh is tissue and water, but, as I said before, not being a theorist, I must content myself with what I picked up from practice, from which I found that turnip growing is most profitable, and the farmer who don't plant them don't treat his land fairly.

Tell you what it is, one-half the farmers are ready to condemn turnip growing because of the trouble. Now, you have been pretty much all over this section, sir, and this is the part of Canada that grows the most turnips. Tell me, do you find any cleaner farms, the land in better till, or where they raise larger crops than we do around here? Not much, I guess. To grow turnips the land has to be thoroughly worked, not merely scratched over, then manured, and then, hoeing keeps down weeds. By this means the land gets fair play. If a man grows turnips he must do something with them, so he has to keep stock to eat them, which of course make manure, without a supply of which no farm can be carried on successfully. The turnip tops are mostly eaten on the field or ploughed in, so the land is not robbed of much except the bulbs themselves. Land thus treated is ready for any crop without much fear of failure, excepting from climatic causes. Then, in feeding stock, practice has taught me that cattle prefer turnips to any other kind of food. Yes, sir, last winter my son persuaded me to get a pulper, and we tried an experiment. We put up six steers, and fed them nothing but pulped turnips mixed with chopped straw. What was the result? In the spring a dealer came along, and after looking at the cattle said they were the finest and best fed steers he had seen for some time, and that we had not spared the grain. I could scarcely keep from laughing, and with difficulty persuaded him to believe that they had not touched grain for months. What do you think of that sir, for turnips? I grow a few mangels for the milch cows, but they would sooner eat turnips.

I would like to tell you a little instance of what happened at a meeting of a farmers' institute. The learned professors delivered lengthy lectures on what different foods contained. They were especially hard on turnip growing. After the lectures an old farmer arose and said that he did not for a moment dispute what had been stated, but would any of the learned gentlemen explain what was there in turnips that made cattle so

fond of them as to leave other food and partake of turnips, and how was it that cattle thrived so on them? No reply came. To my mind they are the nearest approach to grass that we can get during the long winter months when there is no grass, and that's why cattle like them. Yes, sir, I shall try to give my stock plenty of grass in summer and roots in winter, though they may be all water.

RUSTICUS.

## FARMERS AND BRAIN POWER.

The *Scottish Agricultural Gazette*, one of our esteemed exchanges, published at Edinburgh, Scotland, expresses ideas broad enough to go around the world in the following. It says:

Some people imagine that farming requires very little outlay of brain power; but this is a great mistake. "I honestly believe," said one, who is himself a successful agriculturist, "that the farmer who will work his brains till noon, and his hands the balance of the day, will outstrip him who rises at five, and toils till nine at night."

Our most successful farmers are not those who work hardest at manual labour; they work, nevertheless, with all their energies. None are exempt from labour; but in all it is not equally well applied and directed. If we take any two men, physically equal, the one will accomplish most who excels in brain power. Therefore, let that small enclosure within his own skull be cultivated as assiduously and as carefully by the farmer as is his choicest crop. Whatever farming may have been in the past, the time has come when the highest intelligence is demanded as a necessary qualification on the part of the agriculturist.

Book-farming, however, is decried, and "farmers are not a reading class." We, on our part, neither underrate the practical knowledge, nor overrate the importance of the scientific study of farming. The one is needful to the other, and science is futile if it does not help practice to do its work better and cheaper. But there is one great want in most of our farm-houses, and that is the almost entire absence of agricultural literature, both in book and periodical form. The volumes one most expects to see on a farmer's table are generally conspicuous by their absence; and, will it be believed, there is many a farmer who does not take in an agricultural newspaper. Boys and girls grow up on the farm, and spend those years which will so much influence their lives without ever once being led to realize the momentousness of what is before them. They grow up, too, without a taste for reading, and so miss a never-failing source of happiness, not to speak of mental culture and refinement. For all this, the want of suitable books and papers on the farm-house table is to be blamed. The bodily toilers come in thoroughly wearied, and often with a longing for relaxation of some kind; but there is no paper, and no interesting volume that they can turn to, and so they live within themselves, as it were, and, in too many cases, sleep away their existence.

But just let the young farmer think for a moment of the forces, the properties, principles, influences, the laws—developed and undeveloped—with which he must come in contact and understand if he would succeed. So far from being less dependent upon the arts and sciences than those engaged in other occupations, the farmer stands in need of a far wider range of knowledge than is requisite in almost any other business; and farming need not prove the unvarying and monotonous life it is often said to be, for every operation on the farm is an incentive to inquiry and stimulant to thought. Men of one idea cannot succeed in farming, and those engaged in it, the young especially, should lose no opportunity of adding to their present stock of ideas by reading, by investigating for themselves, and through intercourse with others.

If farmers were to read more, they would also write more to farm papers. Every one should be ready to exchange ideas with others. This does good all round.

## HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

The cloak of medium length has had its day, they must either be very long or very short. For these, dull red cloth is coming in favour.

No more sensible and tasty outside wrap can be made for children than the Newmarket. For fabrics plush, homespun and astrachan are used.

An elegant cover for a small table may be made of a copper coloured plush scarf, with silk tassels of same colour, run through crescents at the edge.

A CURTAIN for the lower sash of a window, made up plain of cotton scrym, painted in bold designs of morning glories, nasturtiums or other showy flowers, is very effective and pretty.

THE newest mantles and coats are made without plaits in the back. Green billiard cloth very similar to that used on billiard tables is a novelty for tailor jackets, to be worn by young ladies with black, green and brown dresses.

CAN all the good cooking apples that are imperfect, and will not keep, for winter use. It is a great convenience to have them all ready to put on the table. As fast as your jars are emptied, fill them again when you stew apples for dinner.

SAUSAGE MEAT is much better chopped than ground, but in either case should be made very fine. Use the finest dairy salt and pure pepper. Put one pound of salt, six ounces of black pepper, and a teaspoonful of red pepper, to every fifty-five pounds of meat. Sage, used in moderation, is a great improvement to the seasoning.

A GOOD way to make use of old red table cloths which are no longer suitable for the table, is to cut them in good-sized pieces and keep them in a drawer in the pantry, and on baking-days bring them forth to lay the warm bread or cookies or cakes upon. They may take the place of towels in many other ways and prove a substantial economy.

THIS makes good corn bread: Beat two eggs very light, mix alternately with them one pint of sour milk, or buttermilk, and one pint of Indian meal. Melt a teaspoonful of butter and add. Dissolve one teaspoonful of soda in a portion of the milk, and add the last thing. Beat hard, and bake in a pan in a quick oven for twenty minutes, or if preferred in small cakes on a griddle.

IN almost all cases of poisoning the following remedy will prove sufficient: Mix together a heaping teaspoonful of table salt and as much ground mustard, in a teacup of tepid water. This will act as an immediate emetic; but lest there be any particle of poison left in the stomach, swallow, directly after the vomiting, the white of an egg or several spoonfuls of sweet oil, butter, or lard.

ANOTHER pretty cushion-cover is made by cutting a suitable figure out of ribbon or brocade silk; apply this to a square of satin, and outline the figure with gilt cord or very fine braid. Thick lace covers over crimson silk are pretty and easily made; a bow at one corner improves it; fanciful pen-wipers are made of gay-coloured flannels with a bird's head in the centre. If you have had hats trimmed with birds, and they are somewhat ruffled, you can utilize them in this way.

A CORRESPONDENT says: Take one cupful of oatmeal and five cupfuls of water; stir several times during the day, let it stand over night and then pour off all the water and the coarser part of the meal. Strain through a fine sieve and add bay rum to it until it is of the consistency of cream. Bathe the hands freely with it and draw on an old pair of kid gloves, and you will be delighted with the effect. This is equally good for a chapped face. Bathe the skin with it, letting it dry in.