

I have no doubt the valuation of manure is rapidly increasing in all the eastern section of our country, and the idea is also

gaining ground that no foreign substance will fully take its place in the successful cultivation of the soil.—*Country Gentleman.*

## BREEDERS' DEPARTMENT.

### ARE PIGS PROFITABLE?



HIS subject was discussed at a recent meeting of the Croydon Agricultural Club.

Mr. Wilson read the introductory paper. He said—

No doubt the profit of pig keeping depends in a great measure upon having a good breed, and on the management of them.

In an article on high farming read by the late Mr. Baker before the London Farmers' Club, some years since, that gentleman says—"A bushel of barley or pease has always been considered as equivalent to producing 8 lbs. of meat. Therefore, if the price of meat is less per stone than the grain per bushel, the difference is a loss, and *vice versa*." Now, if I can show from others and my own experience that pigs do pay for the food they consume, and leave a small balance besides, I think it will be admitted that they are a profitable stock to keep. In some experiments tried at Mr. Lawes' farm, Rothamstead, with sixteen pigs.

	£	s.	d.
Four pigs were bought in at 41s. 6d.	8	6	0
Consumed 2650 lbs. of barley, at 37s. 6d. per qr. of 416 lbs. including grinding.....	11	18	10½
	£20	4	10½
99 stone 3 lbs. of pork sold at 4s. 4d. per stone, sinking the offal..	21	10	7½
Profit.....	£1	5	9

This experiment shows that the farmer obtained a good price for his barley, though the pork was sold at a low price. When I commenced farming, in December, 1857, I had one pig valued to me at £1 10s. In May, 1859, by purchases and breeding, the number had increased to 77, at a cost of £35 2s. 6d. At the latter date I had sold out for £133 4s. 5d., thus leaving a balance of £104 1s. 11d. for their keep. I then commenced again with two sows, and in twelve months I bred from them 39 pigs, and purchased 14, making together 55. In the succeeding twelve months I lost four by death, and sold the remaining 51 for £100 5s. 11d. thus leaving £85 17s. 11d. for their keep. Now, this appeared to be very

satisfactory; but, as I had not kept account of the cost of the food consumed, I could place no reliance on the result; therefore, after that time, I entered against the pigs the cost of all they consumed, and I will now state to you my profit and loss account:

	£	s.	d.
May 1860, two sows in pig (produced 16 pigs).....	8	0	0
Cost of food and grinding.....	24	6	7
Profit.....	7	17	9
	£40	4	4
November 1860, sold 16 fat pigs..			
Two sows and their second farrow (19).....	12	0	0
	£40	4	4
November, 1860 to April, 1862..	28	4	4
Bred and purchased 99 pigs at a cost of.....	36	18	0
Cost of food with grinding.....	104	4	9
Profit.....	10	13	0
	\$151	15	9

April, 1862.  
By sale of 89 pigs to date.....£151 15 9  
Died 10.

Now I admit that this profit of £10 13s. extending over a period of nearly 18 months is not large; but you will bear in mind that the oats, barley, and peas consumed were my own growth, and charged to the pigs as follows—viz., oats, 37s.; barley, 36s.; and peas, 42s. per quarter. Pollard and midlings at the miller's charge.

	£	s.	d.
From April 25 to Dec. 31, 1852, I had and purchased 30 pigs at a cost of.....	11	6	6
Cost of food and grinding.....	15	13	11
	£27	0	5
30 pigs sold as stores and fat for..	29	3	0
Profit.....	£2	2	7

Since which time I have not struck a balance. I have made no charge for attendance, as I consider the manure made a sufficient set off against it. To my thinking, pigs possess an advantage over other animals kept on a farm, in this respect—that you sooner get a return of the capital originally invested in them. For instance.