

Experiments on Mangels.—We have received from Mr. Bernard N. Wale, Instructor at the Agricultural side of Brewood Grammar School, Staff'rd, a report of the experiments carried out in 1899 on the land connected with the institution. In a trial of various dressings of artificial manure on three varieties of mangels the greatest average yield, 27½ ton, resulted from the application of 4 cwt. of nitrate of soda, 3 cwt. of superphosphate, and 4 cwt. of kainit, at a cost of £2 19s. 10d. per acre. This was 8 tons more than the yield of the unmanured crop, so the dressing paid well. Where the superphosphate was increased to 5 cwt. the yield was slightly less. Where the nitrate was reduced to 2 cwt. the yield was 3 tons less, and where it was reduced to 1 cwt. the crop was less by about 4½ tons. Where kainit was omitted the yield was over 5½ tons less, and where superphosphate was omitted it was fully 3 tons less.

The use of potash salts is probably on most soils not needed, where dung is pretty constantly used; but where this is not the case, their aid should not be neglected.—*Ag. Gazette.*

Household Matters.

(CONDUCTED BY MRS. JENNER FUST).

ABOUT SKIRTS.

The tight fitting skirt has quite gone out of fashion, at which many people will rejoice. It had few real admirers, and not a great many patrons, as it was not a skirt that could be converted into another mode without extra stuff, and this is the only possible way of doing it over and making into a wearable skirt. It took less material to make than the ordinary skirt, so those who bought the usual quantity had a good bit left over, which will now come in handy and enable the owner to convert the discarded skirt into one which can still be worn. A double box pleat is put into the back part, thus giving extra width and more freedom for walking, and it will retain quite a fashionable appearance.

LONG TRAINS.

It makes one sorry to hear of these fashionable abominations coming into vogue again; they are very nice, and most ladylike for the house, but

it makes one sad to see people who ought to know better sweeping the streets with their nice dresses. It is truly hard work to hold up a skirt for a long time, as those who are in the habit of doing so can testify. It makes walking hard exercise all the time. Any person who has been in the habit of clutching at the skirt, to keep it out of mud or slush, knows what a task it is to do so; and when the greatest care has been taken, to find a part had been trailing all the time in the very objectionable refuse of the streets, to find that part damaged beyond repair, they will be very glad to return to a nice walking skirt, which needs no catching or holding up, but leaves the wearer to enjoy a walk in perfect freedom. Trains were never meant for walking in; they are only fit for those who drive, and seldom walk more than a few yards to or from the carriage to the door.

LONG SKIRTS.

At first sight it seems funny to connect neuralgia with long skirts, does it not? but a learned professor (a German of course) has been holding forth on the subject of these long skirts of ours to a large number of strong-minded ladies, and the conclusion arrived at, was—that the long trailing skirt, which refuses to be held up on a muddy day, is a source of strain and worry which leads to neuralgia and other nerve troubles. I think the state of one's temper, after a day's shopping, when the dreadful long skirt has been a trouble to us, will tell us plainly that such a strain does exist. The professor went on to say that long walking dresses are not hygienic, that they interfere with liberty of movement and beauty, and that, therefore, they should be avoided by every sensible woman who values her health. Alas! Professors may preach, if dame fashion sets her seal of approval on a garment. We all know that long, heavy skirts are awkward to get about in and tire one dreadfully; that tight lacing injures the health, that squeezing up the toes spoils our carriage, yet, because they are fashionable, we continue to do all these things daily.

PETTICOATS.

These garments must also undergo a change.

During the reign of the tight skirts they had to be made as flat as possible, now they must return to their former fulness and be gathered and fastened at the back.