

are abortive, and the plant is very shy of growth, and confined to the best cultivation. At the time of flowering, "Timothy grass" produced, on one acre, 40,837 lbs.—when ripe it yielded the same weight, but the quantity of nutritive matter was more than doubled—the lattermath yielded 9,528 lbs., and the same quantity of nutritive matter as at the time of flowering. 1,920 grains of leaves gave 80 grains of nutritive matter; and 100 grains of nutritive matter gave 74 of mucilage or starch, 10 of saccharine matter or sugar, and 16 of bitter extractive or saline matter. The ripe crop exceeds the flowering in value as 14 to 5, which circumstance gives great value to the plant for the purpose of hay. When these statements of comparative produce and value are admitted as an authority, it will be seen that cat's-tail-grass exceeds the fox-tail in every respect, except in the produce of the lattermath—an advantage that is much over-balanced by the greater produce and the ready growth of the Timothy grass. It thrives much on peaty lands, and in humid climates, and on all damp soils, and on those that possess a degree of loamy softness in their composition; and is unfit for hot sands, gravels, chalks, and hard sterile clays. With that exception, my experience on a great variety of soils, and for a long period of time, places this grass next to ray-grass for general utility. It grows readily and abundantly, and yields much seed of good quality. On very good lauds it has a tendency to produce a height of stems in the place of number, and the leaves are soon blanched and yellowed by rain in the making into hay; but the other grasses have a similar tendency, and they are all of them inferior to "ray-grass" in producing a crop of the greatest number of stems, of a moderate and equal height. The time of flowering is little if any later than the cock's-foot, fescue, or ray-grass; and for one crop of hay, or for two and three year's pasture, and for permanent purposes, the meadow cat's-tail must form a very considerable part of the seeds that are sown. A comparative trial of plants, on a scale of superior cultivation and refined management, can afford no criterion of general value. One plant will produce an abundance in such circumstances, but will fail when subjected to ordinary cultivation; and another, which shewed only a fair produce in the experiment, will maintain it more nearly in ordinary management, and take the place of others. For it does not follow that a superiority in one state of trial will attend the plant in other circumstances, which are probably more unfavourable to itself, and more agreeable to others.

The common "ray-grass," and the "meadow fescue," are superior to all other grasses in readiness of growth on the greatest variety of soils, in yielding a produce of the greatest general value in the points of bulk and of nutritive quality, and in affording the largest quantity of sound healthy seed, easily gathered and managed. Timothy-grass is equal to them in all respects save one—

the certainty of growth on gravels, sands, chalks, and clays. On damp soils and on cool loams it is equal to the above-mentioned grasses, and is superior to them in more points than one. But as an exception must be made in the case above stated, and which is of some value in the view of general utility, Timothy-grass must occupy the third place in the graduated list of useful graminaceous plants.

When used for one year in hay, and for two or three years in pasture, 6lbs per acre may be sown of the "meadow cat's-tail," and for strictly permanent purposes 2lbs. may be used.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL FOR THE COUNTIES OF BERKS, BUCKS, AND OXON.—A numerous and highly influential meeting of the leading gentry of the diocese of Oxford was held last week at the Bishop's residence, Cuddesden Palace. The Lord Bishop of Oxford, Viscount Barrington, M. P.; J. W. Henley, Esq., M. P.; J. H. Langston, Esq., M. P.; P. Pusey, Esq., M. P.; R. Palmer, Esq., M. P.; C. G. Dupré, Esq., M. P.; J. Walter, Esq., M. P.; Messrs. C. Carrington, junr., C. Mount, C. Eyre, H. Hamersley, W. H. Stone, and C. Tower, Esqrs.; the Venerable Archdeacon of the Diocese, the Revs. C. K. Keene, H. W. Majendie, W. R. Freemantle, J. E. A. Leigh, E. Hobhouse, &c., were present; when it was resolved to establish a school in connection with the Oxford Diocesan Board, for the purpose of offering a sound English education to the sons of farmers and others. The number of boys to be limited to 150, who are to be admitted upon an annual payment of £25. The right of nomination to be vested for life in the contributors to its funds. A Committee of noblemen and gentlemen, under the Presidency of the Bishop of the Diocese, has been framed for the purpose of collecting donations, and carrying into effect the objects of the meeting. Upwards of £1,100 has already been subscribed.

HARLESTON FARMERS' CLUB.—At a meeting of the above club, held at the Swan Inn, on the 17th instant, the subject for discussion was—"To what extent may artificial manure be advantageously used for root crops?"—Resolution: "It is the opinion of this club that on heavy land, of which this district chiefly consists, the quantity of farmyard manure usually applied to the root crop may be advantageously reduced, and a portion of artificial manure substituted for the same; and the evidence laid before the club on this question induces it to believe that the best artificial manure is superphosphate of lime, made in about the following proportion: 3 bushels of half-inch bones, 63 lb. of sulphuric acid, and double its volume of water, mixed with 8 bushels of burnt earth; the cost of which is about 16s. 6d. per acre.—FRANCIS DIX, Secretary, Dickleburgh, 5th month (May), 18th, 1848.