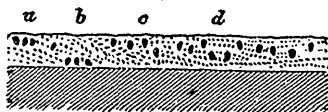


Bad ploughing is attended with bad consequences at all seasons, in forming the seed-furrow for any kind of crop, but particularly for a cereal one, inasmuch as irregularity of surface cannot be amended in this by the cleansing implements in future operations, as might be the case in a green crop. Seed sown on the irregular surface of fig. 4, where *a* is a narrow deep furrow, *b* a shallow one, *c* a large one of ordinary depth, and *d* one having a high and steep side, will be covered in an irregular manner, as is shown in fig. 5, where some seeds are clustered together and covered in a shallow manner at *a*; others also clustered, but

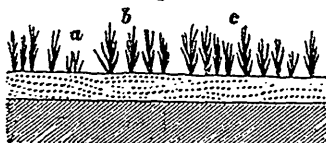
Fig. 5.



IRREGULAR DEPOSITION OF SEED ON ILL-PLOUGHED FURROW-SLICES.

buried deep, at *b*; whilst many are scattered irregularly at different depths, at *c* and *d*. It is obvious, from such a deposition of the seed, that the braird must come up in a very irregular manner, likely to affect the future progress of the crop; for we have only to look at such a braird to be convinced that the plants have not all the same chance of arriving at maturity at the same time; and, if a crop does not mature alike, the grain cannot be alike in the sample. In fig. 6, where the seed

Fig. 6.



IRREGULAR BRAIRD ON ILL-PLOUGHED FURROW-SLICES.

was sown very deep, it will produce plants that will come up late, as at *a*; while that covered in a shallow manner will send up plants early, as at *b*, which will push on in growth when the weather is favourable, and get far in advance of the late ones at *a*. The remainder at *c*, coming up in a more regular manner, will form the best part of the crop.

**Drill-sowing.**—One evident advantage of sowing with a drill over a broadcast machine, is the regular deposition of the seed at one depth, whatever depth may be chosen. Fig. 7 represents the seeds deposited at regular intervals, from *a* to *a*. The figure is supposed to be a cross section of the

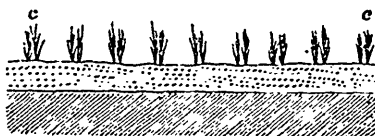
Fig. 7.



REGULAR DEPTHS OF SEED BY DRILL-SOWING. ground, as also of the seeds in the lines of rows as

sown with the drill. The braird is shown also in cross section from the drilled seed in fig. 8 from *c* to *c*, where the plants seem all of the same

Fig. 8.



REGULAR BRAIRD FROM DRILL-SOWN SEED.

height and strength, and their produce may reasonably be expected to be of the same quality. What makes drilled seed be certainly retained at a uniform depth is the harrowing of the land into a smooth state before the drill sows the seed.

## RAISING DUCKS.

The duck, though a very valuable fowl, and usually commanding a high price in our market, has one great objection, which is that they are unmerciful gormardizers, and are difficult to raise. The eggs are generally incubated by hens. In situations remote from water they rarely do well; their propensities being aquatic, and standing water essential to their health. Where there are ponds or streams the duck is probably as profitable as any fowl; they are very prolific, and their eggs are preferred by many to those of hens.

Meat is essential to the duck in dry situations. Where they have free access to ponds, they feed on various reptiles, and species of the aquatic grass which they find beneath the surface, and which is a very excellent substitute for animal food. When insects are abundant such as grasshoppers and the like, they require no supply of meat, as they obtain a sufficiency of animal food themselves; but when this is not the case, they must be furnished liberally or they will assuredly die. Potatoes boiled and well mixed with meal makes an excellent article of food for the duck. They become fat when fed on it, and when in preparation for market is perhaps the best food that can be given to them except meat. Young ducks require great attention. Their voracious habits often induce them to eat to repletion, and many die quite young, from no other cause than pure stuffing.—*Ger. Tel.*

**MINDS SEEN ON MOUNTAINS.**—As upon a mountain you get a new and extended view of the surrounding scenery, so you there obtain fresh insight of the hearts and feelings of your companions. The soul seems to expand in the vastness and sublimity of the prospect and exhilarating air, as the night-closed petals of a flower open to the influence of the morning sunshine.

THERE is in every human countenance either a history or a prophecy, which must sadden, or at least soften every reflecting observer.—*Coleridge.*

AFFECTION or love is what constitutes the life of every person, for whatever the affection is, such is the man.