ities of improvement in it which no other rootcrop possesses. The sheep is emphatically the most accomodating of all varieties of farm-stock. But it always needs variety of feed to make it strive, and, therefore mixed cropping should need little recommendation for those who keep a flock. It certainly seems to be possible that the number of plants capable of being profitably cultivated as sheep food might be extended. Yarrow and paraley are so well known as favorite herbage, that one wonders that that no experiments have been made to secure a more leafy variety. Both could be sown with a corn crop.

In Belgium it was once a frequent practice to sow with a thin crop of any cereal a small deep growing carrot. The objection to this combination is the amount of labour which is required to dig out the small carrot. It is certainly time that the old idea should be quite got rid of, that improvement on farming has reached its limit and that there is any special wisdom now in preservering exclusively with the few crops and the short routines to which the occupiers of land have been condemnel. It is a well known fact that to keep up a supply of milk, a large variety of food should be used-a constant abundance of succulent food-and this seems well nigh impossible without a greater variety of crops that we use at What is called catch-cropping-one present. crop following another in the same season-is only possible in some districts; but mixed cropping should be possible almost everywhere, and the key to success must be the finding plants which strive naturally in juxta position and which depend for their own value upon different properties. The one must be grown for its root or seed and the other for its foliage. That there is such partnership in plants may be seen in nearly every pasture.

W. R. GILBERT.

HOW CLOVER HAY IS DRIED.

Let the Plant Dry Itself.

"What is the philosophy of curing clover hay?"

"I do not think that farmers care much for the philosophy of it," said the scientific man. "The man with the mower and the hay rake does not care much for the opinion of the man who sits in the shade and tells the 'how' of it." "That may be true, but tell us how the water is best taken out of the green plant."

"Well, of course everybody knows that hay is dried grass; that is, the water is taken out of the grass. Of course we cannot put water on the hay and have grass again.

When clover hay i cut as it should be, it contains almost as much water as an average sample of milk, and the problem is to get this water out of the plant as quickly as possible."

"Most farmers believe that the best way to do this is to spread the grass out in the sun. Is that right?"

"No, not at all; it is not the sun that takes the water out of the grass. The sun will bleach and discolor it, and may do a positive damage when clover hay is spread directly out in the hot rays of the sun. The water is driven out of the grass chiefly by the wind. That is, by a circulation of warm, dry air through the grass. This however, is not the only way to cure clover hay, for the clover plant may partly dry itself."

"Dry itself, how can that be possible?"

"Hold up a green clover plant, and have a look at it. There is a large surface of leaf, and a thick, heavy stem. Now, the leaf of the plant is, as you know, its lunge, and through the leaf surface, a great deal of water is thrown off. There are few if any pores in the stem, and the only exit for this moisture is through the leaves. Plants throw off an immense amount of moisture in this way. The object in curing clover is to keep the leaf green and healthy as long as possible. When you spread the plant out in the hot sun, the leaves quickly shrivel and lose their power of sucking water out of the plant. The stem is left with a large amount of water, and no means of getting rid of it except by exposure to the wind, which is, as we all know, a slow process except in first-class having weather."

"You mean to say then, that if the leaves are kept green, the plant will really dry itself or suck out most of the water?"

"Yes, that is true. As a familiar illustration, you may cut down two trees, say in June, when the leaves are in full vigor. Take two trees of about the same size; as soon as one has been cut down, take your ax and lop off all the limbs or branches, so that no leaves are left. Leave the other just as it fell, an i you will notice that the leaves retain their vigor for several days, or until they have sucked the moisture out of the tree.