

FARMERS' COLUMN.

RYE AS A GREEN MANURE FOR THE GARDEN AND FARM.—Nothing in gardening is of more importance than manure, and it is, of course, never possible to get too much. In fact, it is rarely possible for the gardener to get enough stable manure, and he must resort to some other, the cheapest and best of which, I believe, after several years' trial of it, to be green manure, or growing crops plowed under. Every one knows the value of clover as a fertilizer, but in many parts of the West it cannot be successfully grown, and even then the land must be laid aside two years or more, and with the gardener, this is rarely practicable. After trying many different green crops, I am quite certain that for the gardener and often the farmer in the West, nothing is so valuable as rye. Its growth is made late in Autumn and early in Spring, at a time when little else will grow, so that the ground is free for this particular use. In fact, all the tender vegetables are off in time to sow it in September, and the ground is not needed for them again till May, by which time the rye will be as heavy as can be plowed under. Upon the farm, too, it comes in nicely, if the succeeding crop is to be corn, roots, or potatoes, and more particularly sowed corn for fodder, for which it seems especially adapted. Even after corn I succeed well with it, sowing it broadcast and cultivating it in, leaving the corn hills standing, as they gather snow and help to protect the rye in Winter. I sow the seed thickly—about six pecks to the acre—and early, if possible, so that the plants shall stool out before Winter, endure exposure better, and make a quicker and larger growth in the Spring. When the ground is wanted for planting—usually from May 20 to June 1—we turn it under with chain. It is often three feet high, and thick as only such a heavy crop can be, but with a heavy chain hauled from the whiffletree cross-bar to the plow beam, with slack enough so that it will drag just ahead of the upturning furrow, it will pull down every stalk into the empty furrow as nicely as it could be laid by hand, and the whole mass buried out of sight. A little practice will soon teach just the amount of slack needed. My attention was first called to the value of this crop for manure almost by accident. I found myself short of suitable land for still another variety of seed melons, which I was obliged to grow, and leased ten acres of land upon which was growing a crop of rye. This I turned under and planted to tomato melons. The occasional straws sticking up gave the field a ragged appearance for a time, but when the midsummer drought was upon us, and other fields succumbed, this one looked as fresh and vigorous as could be, and in fruiting even exceeded the promise its appearance gave. The yield of seed was more than one half larger than on similar land in good heart, but not green manured. I have practised it ever since, and always with satisfaction, the results the last season being, on some fields, more striking than in any previous year. Its wonderful efficiency in promoting yield is due, I apprehend, not only to the available fertility it furnishes, but also to its mechanical effect on the soil and thus maintaining moisture through our worst droughts. Of course I would myself, and would recommend to others, to get every forkful of manure to be had, and apply it. And yet, upon the same land, I would, in addition, apply green manure wherever practicable. The labor of applying evenly forty loads of manure per acre, is considerable. All this is done more evenly by the green crop. Seed and labor together cost me but \$3.30 per acre. I cannot say that it adds as much fertility to the soil as forty loads of manure, but I do say that in our droughty season it produces as great an increase of crop as do forty-two horse loads of good manure. It certainly pays to practice it, and to practice it largely, even on land well supplied with stable manure, as that increases the vigor and growth of the green crop, which is immediately, with additions, returned to the soil.—From Root's Garden Manual.

AMMONIA AND ITS USES.—Ammonia is the substance, more than any other, that is commonly regarded as the source of nitrogen food for plants. Still, it is nitrogen that must be furnished from some source, and it is not important from what source it comes, only that it be in a form that can be appropriated by the plants which it is designed to nourish. Nitrate and sulphate of ammonia are sometimes produced by adding one of the common acids (nitric or sulphuric) to a heap of farmyard manure when ammonia is abundant. These, and some other acids, are capable of combining with ammonia and forming salts of this alkali, and thereby fixing it, so that it will not escape away into the atmosphere. Nitrate and sulphate of ammonia should therefore be added to the list of sources of ammonia as a fertilizer, but the cost of these salts will not admit of their extensive use for this purpose. Storing up these fertilizers, except in places where they are in great demand. Nature has provided some remarkable plans for the production and use of this abundant and useful fertilizer. As it is extremely volatile, it is abundantly diffused in the atmosphere; and as it is remarkably ready for solution in all liquids it is readily taken up by watery vapor that may be floating in the air. It is not only readily dissolved in liquids but is also readily condensed into the pores of many substances that have interstices between their particles. Among these substances are charcoal, dry clay, most of the loose and dry earths, and snow. Although charcoal is capable of storing up in its pores large quantities of ammonia, even many times its own bulk, this incident cannot be made available to much extent for storing up ammonia for agricultural purposes. But this capacity of charcoal is a curious fact, and is sometimes made available as a means for removing taints from meat, and for cleansing sirups from some of the useless or injurious substances which they contain, and for removing coloring matter from them. Clay, or dry clay, is among the most useful; because it is one of the most natural ways that are provided for storing up ammonia and afterward of imparting it to growing crops. Next to charcoal, it is capable of storing up the largest quantity in its pores. Most of the dry earths are also capable of retaining considerable quantities, but much less than either charcoal or dry clay. It has been observed that a winter during which there was a succession of snow-storms which melted and gave place to others, was likely to be succeeded by abundant harvests. When it was remembered that snow has a remarkable capacity for condensing and retaining ammonia, it is not difficult to define the cause of this increased fertility. As this fertilizer is always being produced in and furnished to the atmosphere during warm seasons by the decomposition of nitrogenous organic substances, large proportions of it are brought down to the earth and added to the soil, and thereby furnished to growing plants, by the gentle rains and the more gentle distilling dews. Carbonic acid and ammonia are both compound gases. The first is one of the heaviest and the second among the lightest of gases. Chlorine is the heaviest, or has the greatest specific gravity of any of the gases, and hydrogen (which is a constituent of ammonia) is the lightest of gases, or of the known substances. The first is the chief source of carbon food for plants, and the second furnishes most of their nitrogenous foods. It may not be easy to appreciate the fact that these two substances are compound gases, are the most abundant sources of the organic foods for all plants, whatever may be the name of the material, that is used as food by plants, whether they be furnished by the processes of nature or by art. It may be said that carbonic acid is mostly received from the atmosphere and through the office of the leaves of plants and that ammonia is mostly received through their roots or from the soil.—Prairie Farmer.

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FITS! FITS! FITS!

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Persons laboring under this distressing malady, will find Hancock's Epileptic Pills to be a sure and speedy cure. The following certificates should be read by all the afflicted, there are every respect true, and should be read by anyone who is not afflicted himself, if he has a friend who is a sufferer, he will do a humane act by cutting this out and sending it to him.

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SETH HANCOCK, Baltimore, Md.—Dear Sir:—Reading your advertisement, I was induced to try your Epileptic Pills. I was attacked with Epilepsy in July, 1868. I had already my physician was summoned, but he could give me no relief. I then consulted another physician, but I seemed to grow worse. I thought the treatment of another, but without any good effect. I again returned to my family physician; was cupped and bled several different times. I was generally attacked without any preliminary symptoms. I had from two to five fits a day, and in two weeks, I was often attacked in my sleep, and would fall wherever I would be, or whatever I was occupied with, and was severely injured several times from the falls. I was affected so much that I lost all confidence in myself. I also was affected in my business, and I consulted your Epileptic Pills. In February, 1872, I received a box of your Pills, and only had two fits. The last one was April 1st, 1872, and they were a most serious character. With the blessing of God, your medicine was used in the last fit, and I was cured of that distressing affliction. I think that your Pills and their good effects should be made known to all who are afflicted with this disease. I have always recommended them, and in no instance where I have had a chance of hearing from their effects, have they failed to cure. Yours, etc., WILLIAM EIDER.

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The subjoined will answer:

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ANOTHER REMARKABLE CURE.

CURE OF EPILEPSY, OR FALLING FITS.

BY HANCOCK'S EPILEPTIC PILLS.

MONTREAL, June 23rd, 1872.

To SEYMOUR HANCOCK, a person in my city, I had been a sufferer from Epilepsy for two years. I was first attacked in the month of July, 1870. I was then a young girl, and my father was very anxious to have me cured. I received two boxes of your Pills, which he took according to directions. He has never had a fit since. I am now a healthy girl, and I have been able to attend to my school. I have always recommended them, and in no instance where I have had a chance of hearing from their effects, have they failed to cure. Yours, etc., GUYDA, Talbotville, Conn., Miss.

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