

**CULTIVATED PATCHES ALONG RAILWAYS.**—It is now no unusual thing to see potatoes and other crops planted on the strips of land by the side of railroads. When we reflect how much land could be added to the acres already under cultivation by utilizing these strips between the road bed and the fences, the plan seems both economic and desirable. Throughout England, we learn from a correspondent of one of the daily papers, gardens along the sides of railways are the rule instead of the exception. The space between the track and the fence on both sides is either seeded down to grass or laid out as a vegetable garden, unless too steep to hold soil. Often the name of the station is marked out on the bank in coloured stones or in flowering plants; or the letters are cut out of the sod, and the borders so made are gay with flowers or green with vegetables. If this plan were more generally followed in this country, it would not only tend to the benefit of railroad employes, but would give a pleasing variety to belts of land which now are generally given over to weeds or any wild plant which will grow on them.

**THE WASTE OF LIQUID MANURE.**—Very few barns or barn-yards are so arranged as to save the liquid manure. The loss resulting from such a want of proper arrangement is a very serious one, more so than most farmers would imagine. In the first place, the quantity of liquid matter which might be saved from a pair of horses and half a dozen cows amounts to \$0,000 pounds yearly. This is equal to about 10,000 gallons, which, diluted with an equal quantity of water, would furnish each year a dressing of 1,000 gallons per acre to twenty acres of land. Fermenting liquid manure needs this addition of water for the purpose of retaining the ammonia which would otherwise pass off and be lost. The solid matter contained in the above quantity of liquid is equal to nearly three tons, and is worth as much as the best guano. The money value would therefore be about \$200—an amount that is well worth saving. Much less than this amount would make the drains and tank required to save the manure, so that the outlay would be more than repaid the first year. Or, if proper absorbents were freely used, the whole of the liquids might be saved without any outlay at all.

**MARKETING GRAIN.**—We have occasionally inquiries as to the propriety of disposing of grain as soon as ready for market, or of holding for a rise later in the season. We can not with propriety advise in a matter on which so many men have widely different ideas, yet there are some circumstances in which the farmer may find himself in doubt as to which course should be followed, and make a man's interest apparent. First. A farmer should go to market without loss of time when other parties have an interest in his crop. If the merchant has been promised a part of the proceeds, it is only strict honesty to fulfil the promise at the earliest

day. Second. It is never wise for a farmer to borrow money rather than sell his crop. He will afterwards keenly regret this course. The anxiety of the speculator will consume him, and even should he succeed in gaining an advance, the cost of interest will doubtless eat it up. If a farmer has money in hand and grain in his barn, he is independent of contingencies, and can do as he pleases; but for all others, we think that the sooner they go to market the better.

**SEWAGE.**—The British Association Committee 'On the Treatment and Utilisation of Sewage,' which was reappointed at the Exeter meeting in 1869, have just published their report, in which is embodied information obtained from two hundred towns. This report may be consulted with confidence by all who wish to know which methods of drainage and sewage are most likely to answer in any particular locality, and to learn something about the results of sewage irrigation on farms. The report contains tabular statements in which all the details are given, as well as analyses of the air in drains and sewers. From the latter, it appears that the air of those places is less foul than is commonly supposed, and that bad smells are more disagreeable than harmful. And, further, with a view to ascertain whether (as had been suggested) the crops of sewage-irrigated farms occasioned peculiar diseases in the animals which were fed thereon, the committee have instituted a series of experiments which will at least throw light on the question. A beginning has been made with three families of guinea-pigs, and, after a course of feeding, one member of each family was killed, and examined, and "no sign of entozoic disease of any description was found, even with the help of a powerful pocket lens, either in the viscera or muscles of any one of the specimens." In continuing the experiments, one family will be fed on sewage produce only, another on the unsewaged produce, and others are to have now and then a meal of vegetables which do contain entozoic larvæ or ova. When these guinea-pigs come to be killed, examined, and compared, some definite results may be looked for, meanwhile, a chemist who has examined specimens of grass, carrots, turnips, onions, and lettuce from a sewage farm, says: 'I find nothing to report against any of them. They all seem to me in excellent order, and free from parasitic insects, or from fungi of any kind. Not the least important part of the report is that in which the committee give particulars of a sewage-irrigated farm near Romford. The crops there have proved surprisingly profitable. Onions fetched £36 an acre in the ground; spinach, £22 an acre; cabbage and cauliflowers, from £24 to £27 an acre; lettuce, £30 an acre. A new kind of American oats yielded at the rate of 14 quarters to the acre. Three crops of rye-grass were taken in one season from 5½ acres of meadow, and produced in all nearly 13 loads. Three sown with 'bunching greens,' a species of colewort, produced plants enough to plant 7 acres, and 470,000 plants and 3,240 full-grown roots for sale, the money value of which was £39 15s. From this it would appear that the most profitable use for the sewage of a town is to cause it to flow across a farm.

## Stock Department.

### Buy Cattle to Fatten in the Winter.

The liberal and constant application of manure is the grand basis upon which rests successful farming. Of manure there are three kinds—the so-called artificial manures, green manures, and animal or barn-yard dung. Each in its place is necessary to a proper enrichment of the soil, and the obtaining of all is a matter of much importance. Now, the heading of our present article leads us to a consideration of the manufacture of the latter manure. To make plenty of barn-yard manure a number of stock must be kept, and such should be richly fed; for as the fodder is rich, so will the manure be impregnated with a maximum amount of those rich elements which go to increase the growth of the plant.

While endeavouring to fat a great number of head of cattle, the question of a profitable return for the food supplied has to be considered as inseparably connected with the manufacture of rich manure. We have seen beasts put up to fatten who have eaten more than they have made. A thin beast, put up in the cold weather, takes a great amount of his food for the purpose of supplying the necessary heat to the body; while an animal in good order has a heat-producing store in his own fat, which allows all the extra food to be taken up in producing more meat. We may lay it down as an axiom that it will not pay to put up a thin beast to fatten upon stored or winter food.

Pigs should be put up to finish off as soon as they have begun to exhaust the stubbles; and cattle should be stalled when by running upon fall pastures they have got themselves in good order, and before the cold weather has nipped down the grass.

Those farmers who have now a piece of low pasture would do well to go off into the higher sections to buy cattle. In these latter parts the pasturage is much burned up, and there cattle may be bought at a reasonable figure for cash.

Take such cattle and put them upon a low-lying piece of ground, and it is astonishing with what rapidity they will increase in weight. After August the fall pasturage will be ready for them; take them off this as soon as very cold nights set in, and stall feed. They will be the very best of beef by Christmas.

In this way alone, as a rule, can winter feeding of stock for the butcher be made profitable. The animal is growing from August to December without a day's check. We have bought steers in August for \$35 cash, and sold the same before Christmas for \$65, only stall feeding for about six weeks.

Money may be made in the current year by growing and selling a large breadth of grain, but it is made at the expense of our