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The Field.

Work for the Month of June.

It has been well observed, that "in no month of the year, are the prose and poetry of farm life more mingled, than in the present." The bright sunshine, the blooming flowers, the verdant fields and forests, the chirping insects, the singing birds, and the "little busy bees," combine to form a scene in which activity and beauty are harmoniously blended. It is nature teaching man to labour cheerfully,—to let work and gladness go hand in hand. All can appreciate the poetry of pleasant fields and pretty flowers, but it is rather prosaic to plant potatoes and hoe corn. Now begins the fight with weeds, and a stern fight it often is. Nevertheless it is a battle in which there must be no cowardly shirking, and in prosecuting which, the farmer needs many of the qualities of the true soldier. Corn, whether for green fodder, or a crop of ears, may still be planted. Indeed, it is hardly advisable in this climate to put corn into the ground before the beginning of June. Our farmers should grow more of this valuable cereal. Millet may also be sown early this month, and is useful both for green forage and for curing the same as hay. It is not even now too late to get a fair crop of mangolds, and carrots, if these have not yet been sown. Better put them in late than be scant of roots for winter feeding. The middle of this month is the time for getting in turnip seed, and we earnestly counsel all our readers by all means to grow a patch of these valuable esculents. No farming is worthy the name which does not include in its regular course,—turnip growing. Choose the best bit of ground at command, and if you can get it, sow Coe's Superphosphate, at the rate of about 200 pounds to the acre, before drilling in your turnip seed. It will hasten the growth of the young plants, and increase the crop amazingly. Manure-making is always seasonable, and should not be lost sight of, anytime in the year. Husband cattle droppings, poultry dung, privy ordure, kitchen refuse, weeds from the garden, and compost all with swamp muck, or ordinary soil. Let no fertilizing material go to waste. Barns and sheds will soon be needed for storing away hay and grain. Let them be in good order before the hurry of haying and harvesting comes on. Look after the tools that will then be needed. The mowing and reaping machine should be carefully overhauled and scythes, cradles, rakes &c., provided and put in working order. This ought to be a busy month in the dairy. June butter is generally considered the best produced during the year. Let it be carefully made, and it will command the highest price going. Or if it be preferred to keep it until winter, which may be done very well with care, it will fetch a much better price than without doubt. The strictest cleanliness needs to be observed in all dairy operations. Richer

pastures do not grow than are to be found in Canada, and by skillful manufacture, our butter and cheese may challenge the world. Sheep washing and shearing will demand attention early this month. Some farmers do this job too soon. It should be left until we have settled warm weather. The loss of their winter over-coats all of a sudden, must be a severe shock to these most useful, but too often ill-cared for animals. Even in thoroughly warm weather, they should receive extra housing on chill nights and during cold storms just after shearing. By the end of this month, it will be time to cut the first crop of clover for seed. Sometimes animals become bloated from eating greedily of fresh clover. The *Annual Register of Rural Affairs* prescribes a dose of pulverized charcoal as "the best remedy" in such cases. Quantity to be given, about a tea-cup full to an average sized cow, and in proportion to other creatures, according to their age and weight. It should be mixed with water, and poured down the throat from a junk bottle. Orchards should have the soil cultivated and mellowed, and a liberal supply of well-rotted manure should be harrowed in so that the roots may get a supply of nutriment during the fruiting season. A mulching of straw or old litter is very useful in dry hot weather. Plenty of good fruit is not to be raised without some trouble, any more than other crops. Look out for and exterminate the borer before he gets far into the wood. Destroy tent and other caterpillars, if it be not already done. Watch for the carculio, that pest of the plum orchard. Two ways of getting rid of it are recommended by experienced fruit growers. The first is to gather up the young fruit that falls, and either burn it or feed it to the pigs, that the larvæ may be killed. Pigs and poultry allowed to run among the plum trees will do this work effectually. The second plan is to jar the plum trees, and so shake off the perfected insects. White sheets should be spread for them to fall on, that they may be readily seen, and destroyed. This is a busy month in the garden—weeding, thinning, hoeing, transplanting, watering, and sowing late seeds, will give the gardener enough to do. Cabbages, cauliflowers, early celery, and tomatoes, must be transplanted this month. Cucumber and melon plants will need watching, and defending from the ravages of the striped bug. Sowing seeds at intervals of a few days is recommended, that they may have a succession of tender leaves to feed upon, and so a supply of the older plants may get out of harm's way. It is in the early stage of the plant that the bug feeds on it. Scattering ashes, plaster, and lime, also destruction by hand, are practised to get rid of these marauders. Cooping a hen with a brood of young chicks near the vines is a good plan. The chicks will devour the bugs, and do the plants no harm. Lettuce, beans, peas, and radishes, may be sown at intervals, to keep up a supply as wanted. Gooseberry and currant trees must be watched, and on any sign of the worm or slug appearing, fresh

lime should be sifted among the branches. The heads of fruit trees may be shaped, and a too rampant growth prevented by judicious pinching of the young shoots. This is an important month with bees, as it is the time for new swarms to issue from the hives. Every bee-keeper should supply himself with a good modern text book on api-culture. He will find many suggestions in such a work, of especial value about swarming time.

Phosphorus Set Free by Tillage.

The effects produced by the thorough tillage of the soil, whether chemically or physically, are most interesting and important, and should be carefully studied by every farmer desirous of increasing his profits and improving his art. Cultivation opens up the soil to the beneficial influences of air, warmth, and moisture, by which, injurious compounds are not only rendered harmless to vegetation, but, in many cases, even to yield valuable nourishment to plants.

"The chemical analysis of a great variety of vegetables has revealed to us the fact that the ash of plants (their residuum on being burnt) known to be useless as food, almost invariably contains but a small proportion of phosphoric acid, whilst the ash of wheat, oats, and the like, invariably attains a much larger proportion; and we are further taught, by chemical analysis, that the most nutritious parts of those plants invariably yield the greatest proportion of phosphoric acid,—thus the ashes of the seed of wheat, oats, and rye, contain nearly half their weight of phosphoric acid."

It is not a little singular that phosphorus, all important in the economy of nature though it be, is a comparatively scarce element. Although we now know that it is contained in every fertile soil, there was a time, and that not long since, when its presence was unnoticed in the statements of the analyses of soils; and, as it could not be traced from the soil to the animal, there were not wanting physiologists to maintain that phosphorus found in animals was elaborated under the influence of the life-power. The recent advances which have been made in the processes of analysis, have enabled chemists to detect phosphorus in almost every variety of rock and soil; and there is now no difficulty in tracing the phosphorus of animal substances through the vegetable to the mineral kingdom.

It appears to be a wise arrangement that phosphorus should exist in such small quantities in the earth, and that even the greater portion of this small supply should be locked up in the rocky portion of the soil. But, were it otherwise,—were phosphorus and the other constituents of the soil, which are used as food by plants, supplied in an available form in unlimited quantity, the husbandman could not earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, in obedience to the fiat of the First Great Cause. The tilling of the soil, is, therefore, but the setting free, or rendering available for the purpose of vegetable nutrition, a portion of the phosphorus which it contains. There are, no