

It is a physical impossibility for an animal to do so on such such rough treatment. As you treat your animals, so will they return profit according to whatever interest your care commands.

Just one more thought under this head. It is a notorious fact that most people allow their cattle to be shamefully abused. If you do not believe that every harsh word or blow means so much less meat or milk as the case may be, try more rational treatment and be convinced for yourselves.

Manifestly another fertile source of waste is the weed patches which are allowed in too many instances to exist on the farm. For every weed that you permit to grow on your farm means that much less fertility in the soil to support the succeeding crop. And when we learn that weeds are in many instances harder on the land, and owing to their large and extensive roots draw their food from a greater distance than the average crop, it behooves us to take steps to keep them in check. For we are aware that, if a field is infested with weeds and they obtain a start of the crop, the profit from that field must be secured from the weeds. Then it looks very untidy to see fence corners full of all manner of obnoxious weeds, not to speak of the damage these breeding grounds do not only to succeeding crops, to your neighbors, but also in reducing the value of your property, for the average purchaser will not buy a dirty farm if he can avoid it. Now nearly all weed life can be destroyed without any extra cost if things are only properly attended to. It is not always from lack of time that this state of affairs exists, but from lack of energy and determination on our part.

Too many agriculturists neglect to consider that important factor—rotation of crops. It may be wondered how this can be a source of loss. But if you manure a potato crop very heavily, it is certain they will not obtain the full benefit of that application in one season. Well, the rains and drainage will have washed that fertilizing material so much deeper into the ground, and if a shallow feeding crop is sown we see it will derive very little benefit from that manure, which will the next year be so much deeper in the soil and eventually be lost. Whereas if a deep feeding crop followed the potato crop the result would be reversed and the fertilizing material brought up from the subsoil instead and the ground thus enriched. So it is quite plain that the rotation of crops followed is of considerable value in keeping the soil up to a high standard of productiveness.

Next we come to a very important number of leaks termed "little things." Of all the sources of loss on the farm none is more fatal or wasteful than this one. Agriculturists above every other class are careless in this respect. For example, the tent caterpillars are left to breed at will on the apple trees, and then we are surprised that our apples are all wormy the next year. The harness is left hanging behind the horses exposed to the fumes of ammonia, and then when it decays we blame the harness maker for what is our own fault. The cattle do not get sufficient water, and when they fall off in their milk yield we cannot understand the cause. I only mention these as a few of hundreds of similar practices that we see on the farm. If it was only possible to show in dollars and cents the enormous amount lost by this negligence, people would be amazed at their own folly.

The profit from a business is not made from one or two departments, but from the "little things." Some may argue that it is unreasonable to expect farmers to attend to all these things. Why, it would pay you to curtail your estate or employ more help and do things systematically and well than to struggle on with everything at once and then only eke out a meagre existence, as is too often the case.

And now we have come to the most important leak on the farm, viz.: the drifting of our farmers' sons off the farm into other businesses and professions. Agriculture is the basis of our national prosperity—the greatest, noblest and most extensive of all sciences. How is it then that

every one is endeavoring to flee from it to something more congenial and remunerative? Well, we are reluctantly forced to the conclusion that parents are somewhat to blame in this respect. Nearly all farmers' sons have to work too hard. They are kept drudging away all the time and never have a holiday, no social enjoyments, no interest in the farm, and must ask father for every cent of spending money, which he too often grudgingly gives, and then when the boys get a little older and get out and see other people enjoying the privileges mentioned, the spirit of free America rebels and they assert their independence and leave the farm. Evidently this matter could be remedied if a little more thought were exercised. Give your sons a good education. Inspire them with a love of your profession. Teach them it is the noblest and grandest in existence. Give them an interest in the farm and consult their opinions occasionally. Look after their social enjoyment and give them a few holidays for recreation, and see if the results are not more satisfactory.

Many of our farmers are laboring under great disadvantages. We can never hope to produce with a poor implement what our neighbor does with a first-class one. It does not pay to work with a poor tool if you incur the extra expense of a new article and use it properly, it will pay every time. Inconveniences take up much valuable time and are a source of both loss and annoyance. For instance, driving your cattle a quarter of a mile to water two or three times a day, when by a few dollars' outlay you could procure a well of excellent water in your own yard and save all your trouble and have the satisfaction of knowing your cattle are getting good water and not drinking some impure stuff that will pollute the milk.

Another leak is permitting the fertility of the farm to become impaired. This is frequently the result of carelessness, for it is quite possible to keep the farm in a fair state of fertility without buying any artificial fertilizer. The object should not always be to see how much can be obtained from a field, but how much can be profitably taken off the field and yet leave it in a better condition for the succeeding crop.

Most farmers allow the winter to leach away as it were without accomplishing much. This is the proper time to secure the summer supply of wood. Yet how many neglect to do it then and have to encroach upon the precious harvest hours to do the work. This is the time to get the manure drawn out. Yet how many fail to do it and have to spend a good portion of the most valuable time of the year, viz., seed time, at this work. This is the time to read and study to think and meditate upon everything pertaining to the business, but how many fail to do so. Some may laugh at these ideas, but no farmer can afford to do so. It is only reasonable to expect that the most varied science will require more thorough study and wider reading to master its intricacies completely than any other. These are some of the most noteworthy leaks that are commonly observed on the farm. There are many others, but the writer thinks they are of minor importance, and if more attention was paid to the details on the farm, many of these errors could be remedied and more satisfactory results be attained by all concerned in the pursuit of agriculture.

A. M. S.



## FLOWER CONCEITS.



THE readers of the REVIEW may be somewhat surprised to find an article appearing in the agricultural department under the title of "Flower Conceits," and some may wonder what relation it bears to agriculture. Flower culture should, to a certain extent, be of interest to farmers. It should not only form a pastime for them, when tired by the duties and business connected with their occupation; but it should be looked upon as a source of pleas-