

Agriculture.

We hear a great many complaints in this vicinity of the injury or total destruction of the strawberry crop, by a small bug which cuts the stalk just below the berry. We have been asked to name a remedy, but we have no knowledge of one. Perhaps some of our readers are better informed, and will oblige by giving us the desired information.

HARVEY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This Society intends holding its annual fair on the 25th of October. The members of this Society are endeavoring to place this Society in the front rank. It has already sixty members, an increase of twenty-eight last year, and it will probably be still farther increased.

This year the Society have imported ten ewes and a buck, pure Cotswold from the flock Wm. Hodgson of Myrtle, Ontario; they have also imported cattle. They have also imported about \$150 worth of seed, \$25 worth was in new varieties of potatoes, grain, garden seeds and plants, which was carefully distributed in order to test their adaptability to our soil and climate; the balance has been sold at cost and charged to members.

The Society holds monthly meetings for the discussion of agricultural topics, the exchange of experience, &c. These meetings prove quite interesting and profitable.

I submit a report of one of our monthly meetings, and if it proves interesting and profitable to your readers, I will furnish others. I might promise by saying that the principal crop raised here is hay, the dyked marshes furnishing thousands of tons year after year without manure or any cultivation, and consequently the uplands are not so extensively cultivated as in other situations less favored; and we never see the acreage in roots that we do in York County.

TURNIP CULTURE.

Regular Meetings, June 19th, 1878. J. C. Smith, Esq., stated that he had cultivated the turnip extensively, sometimes they paid him well and sometimes they failed; think, however, that if properly cultivated they are a sure and profitable crop; considers them worth 20 cts. per bushel for feeding purposes. Last year he cultivated 1/2 of an acre. The ground was the previous year in potatoes. The ground was heavy loam plowed and harrowed carefully, furrowed and manured in the furrow with 30 loads of barnyard manure, which was plowed, raked smooth and sowed with seed. He planted 1st of June, sowed 3 lbs. seed; yield 600 bushels.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Cost. Includes Manure, Hauling, Sowing, Planting, Seed, Cultivating, Harvesting, Total cost, Value - Roots, 600 tons at 20c., Tops, Profit per Acre.

Alonso Stiles, Esq., stated that the best crop he ever raised was manured by a compact barnyard manure and swamp mud. The turnips were large, firmer and smoother than usual and kept better; was unable to give yield and cost. G. R. Smith, Esq., stated that he had never succeeded in raising turnips, till he learned cultivating to rake the earth away from the roots. If the ground was in good condition he never failed since.

Mr. West stated that he last year planted 47 square rods. It was broken up, manured and a crop of potatoes taken from it the previous year; was planted last fall again, plowed three times, harrowed and rolled twice, furrowed and manured in furrows, covered with plow, raked off, and sowed with seed sower. It was manured by ten loads of compost, consisting of the scrapings of the barnyard after the manure had been hauled off, 11 loads from under the stables, 1 load of best manure, 1 load of water dropping from 10 hens, a 1/2 lb. refuse salt, 2 lbs. leached and 3 unleached ashes, 1 bushel of lime, thoroughly composted and dried. The yield was 300 bushels, at the rate of 102 per acre. Will plant at least an acre next year.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Cost. Includes Manure, Perching ground, Cultivating, Harvesting, Seed, Total cost, Value - Roots at 20c., Tops, Profit per Acre.

Profit on Crop, \$129.70

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

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CORN AS A FARM CROP.

THE CULTIVATION

of Indian corn should commence by ploughing the land, whether green sward or stubble, unless the soil is very light in the fall, just before winter sets in. If green sward is to be ploughed, it should be ploughed with a swivel plough, the furrows being all laid one way, and smooth and flat as possible. All loose stones of any size should be dug out as the ploughing goes on, and then drawn off the field. A few hours spent drawing off loose stones after ploughing and before planting, will often save several times the amount of labor in the after cultivation. I would plough the land as deep as the black soil extends, and if the soil is not eight or nine inches deep, I would take a very little of the subsoil up, just enough to give the ploughed field a yellow shade. I believe in deep ploughing and in applying the manure at the surface, afterwards. Deeply ploughed land will withstand the drought better and produce better crops than shallow ploughing. By ploughing in the fall, and ploughing as deeply as the soil will warrant, we expose the lower stratum to the action of the frost, air, and rains of winter, which will help to mellow and fit it for cultivation. Fall ploughing is also thought to destroy a great many grubs and worms in the soil, which would be injurious to the crops, and I am inclined to think that cut worms are less troublesome on fall ploughed land.

In the spring, as soon as the land is dry enough to work, it should be harrowed with a Randall, or other equally good pulverizing harrow, which operation should be repeated as often as once a week until planting time, crossing the field in an opposite direction each time. By this repeated harrowing, the field will become mellow and many weeds will be destroyed which will greatly facilitate the subsequent cultivation. I prefer the Randall harrow to any implement with which I am acquainted, for covering manure, and for preparing a fine mellow seed bed of four or five inches in depth. With it, sward land, ploughed the fall previous, can be made as fine and mellow as an old field. The cheapest time to cultivate land is before the crops are planted, and the success of the season's operations will depend very much upon the thoroughness of the ploughing and harrowing.

PLANTING.

Corn should be planted as soon after the middle of May as the soil is dry enough to work. We ought not to let the apple trees blossom before the corn is planted. When it is manured and we are ready to plant, give it a final harrowing and mark it out with a marker, which will mark three rows at a time, three, and one-half feet apart each way, taking great pains to have the rows straight and of an even distance apart as even rows greatly facilitate the use of the cultivator or horse hoe by enabling one to work close to the hills, leaving but hand hoeing. A marker which will make three rows at a time is a great saving of time.

The one I use is adjustable to different widths and can be used for various crops. It is made by cutting three runners out of two-inch plank, about four and one-half feet long and fifteen inches wide and rounded off at the lower front corner, like a sled runner, so as to enable it to ride over the soil like a sled. These three runners are held in place by two cross pieces or arms of hard wood, two inches square and seven and one-half feet long which pass through mortises near the top of the runner. The centre runner is pinned to the centre of the cross piece and the side runners are slid on to the ends of the strips or arms and held in place by pins, and may be set at 2, 2 1/2, 3, or 3 1/2 feet from the centre, and then will mark marks at their respective distances. Boards are also nailed on to the cross strips in the centre, each side of the centre runner, forming a platform four feet square for the driver to stand upon, and to strengthen the frame-work. A pair of old sleigh shafts are also attached to the forward end for the horse to steady and steer it by. I also attach a pole to the marker from the end of which I draw a chain to show where to go the next time. This will be seen, I can ride in on the marker and mark three rows at a time, of any desirable width, and draw a chain where the next row should be.

But to return to planting corn. After marking the rows 3 1/2 feet apart each way, which is more than far apart I should drop my fertilizer, if any, to be applied in the hill, kick a little dirt over it, and drop six or seven kernels of corn in each hill so as to be sure of four vigorous stalks. As soon as the corn is up enough to see the rows easily, start the cultivator and run it through the field once in a row one way, and spread so as to work up within two or three inches of the hills.

ROOT PRUNING.

In an article with the above title, in the Rural for May 18, I think your correspondent, G., has unintentionally, conveyed a wrong impression. He speaks of a "new theory of tillage," and says that, by repeated experiment, Mr. Sturtevant has "proved that root pruning will make vegetables and grain earlier and more prolific." I have had occasion to study this subject with some care, and I understand it as follows: As long ago as 1701, Jetho Tull commenced a series of experiments in the line of thorough culture of farm crops. These he kept up for thirty years; at the end of which time, that is in 1731, he published a statement of the results in a work entitled "The Horse Hoeing Husbandry." He practiced "the method of pulverizing the soil during the growing of the crops." At first, there was a decided opposition to this method of culture, but in time it won its way to popularity, and, with some modifications, is now in quite general use in England. Mr. Sturtevant's summary of Tull's theory is as follows: "Sir the land, being it is to dust, allow the natural agencies of the air and dew to have full action within your soil, in or on that they may pulverize. Hoe frequently during growth. Now, as I understand it, this statement of the method of culture is correct, and the method thus described is the one followed by Mr. Sturtevant. The difference between the old theory of tillage as held by Mr. Tull, and the new theory as developed by Mr. Sturtevant, does not appear in practice, but merely in the supposed reasons why the results of this system of culture are so favorable. The former held that the benefits of this system were secured by a thorough pulverization of the soil, which fitted it for plant-foot; while the latter believes that, in addition to this, the root pruning which deep and frequent cultivation inevitably secures is one of the principal causes of the success which attends this system whenever it is properly followed. The discovery of Mr. Sturtevant is not that deep culture is beneficial, but that the deep culture is beneficial because it insures root pruning instead of merely tilling the soil. It is well enough to know the reasons of things, but when the things are as beneficial as deep and thorough culture, it is much more important to practice the things themselves. I believe this deep culture will, sometime, come into general practice in this country, and that it will lead to a higher success than farmers have yet attained.

Again, I think your correspondent is a little off the track in his advice to use the hoe. He says: "He who spares the hoe spoils the crop." Now the one foundation principle of this "new theory" of tillage, which he seems to favor, is that the culture must be deep. Otherwise, it is of no special value. The great English farmers, Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert, tried the "Lois Weedon" system (a slight modification of that of Tull, and similar, as far as cultivation goes, to that recommended by Mr. Sturtevant) for four years, and the result was a failure. But Rev. Mr. Smith, the man who developed this system, showed that the hand hoe was used in these experiments instead of the horse hoe, and claimed that the failure was wholly due to this variation from the instruction given in his work upon the subject. It seems that this system "without deep tillage was a failure; with frequent and deep tillage a success." That hand hoeing is better than no hoeing can not be denied, but there seems to be little ground for expecting that it will accomplish any great results. The horse hoe or the plow, or both, must be used and must be arranged so as to give deep cultivation. If the culture is too deep and frequent it will be very certain to insure the production of good crops.

THE HARVESTING

should commence by cutting the corn at the ground as soon as the ears begin to glaze over, and then stooking it. I prefer stooking corn to topping, because the grain is nearly, if not quite, as good, and the fodder is very much better. If it is put up early and in good shape, so as to stand up and shed the rine, the whole fodder will be nearly as good as the tops would be cut separately. Every one knows that corn butts or husks, as they are usually called when they are left exposed to the weather until husking time, are very poor fodder. If by stooking we can preserve them in as good condition as the tops are when dried and bound, we are increasing the value of the fodder very much. The husking can be done at any time when most convenient, or it may be husked in the field and the fodder left in the stooks until winter, if it will stand so long. When corn is husked before the fodder is thoroughly dried, and the stalks are mixed with straw, which will absorb some of the moisture and help to prevent them from moulding. I do not believe mouldy fodder is proper food for stock, although some claim it is relished by them better than bright fodder. It would be well to sprinkle a little salt over the fodder, also, as some of us do on our green hay. It checks the tendency to mould and it will be relished by the stock. That the time may soon come when Indian corn will again be a leading crop on New England farms is the hope of your correspondent.—Con. New England Farmer.

RAISING COLTS.

There is a crude notion prevailing that hardships make young stock hardy. A colt that is weaned in the fall, as is commonly the case, should not be allowed to become poor in the first winter. It is true that it will often improve so rapidly in spring that its wretched condition in the winter seem really to have been an advantage to it, but this is a grave mistake. If the same condition were imposed during the whole period of growth the effect would be very perceptible. Although the summer may in some degree remove the effect of winter, as an animal so long as ever becomes what it might have been in size, symmetry of form and action, by generous treatment. There is profit in breeding fine carriage and draft horses. As a general rule it costs no more to raise a good colt than a poor one, while the former will bring two or three times as much as the latter. A slack stable is a poor place to keep a colt.

STABLING CATTLE IN SUMMER.

It is too frequently the case that the excrement of our domestic animals are regarded as a waste substance about which little thought need be exercised or to which little care need be given, whereas they in fact comprise the very elements of fertility and plant food, for which our hungry soils are crying out, and which every crop upon the farm demands for its best growth. Our farming should tend more towards the making manufacturing of manure as the most important and most profitable product that can come from the business of farming; instead, as now, of tending very largely towards the selling of hay and the purchase of special fertilizers. Manufacturing manure or fertilizers should be the main business of every good farmer, and now is just the time to enter upon that business with an energy commensurate with its importance. Generally farmers have an idea the only time when cattle need stabling is during the fall and winter months—then it must be done from sheer necessity or humanity—and during this period the saving of the excrements and the increasing of the manure heaps by the use of absorbents, can only be carried on under great difficulties and disadvantages. In some few cases with favorable conditions, as where very tight stables are provided, or warm collars, and a good supply of absorbents stored up for winter use, the manufacture of manure can be carried on during a large portion of the winter. But almost always a fearful waste and loss attends all such opportunities in the winter time. Yet after all this, when summer comes, the season for doing just this kind of work, farmers let their cattle remain in a corner of the pasture during all the nights, or keep them in open yards and seldom think of scraping up their droppings into heaps, which are consequently washed away by the rains and dried up by the hot sun.

PRIMROSE AND POLYANTHUS.

These old-fashioned flowers are attracting annually increased attention from those who wish to derive the largest possible extension of pleasure their gardens can be made to yield. No spring flower is equal to them in the profusion in which they bloom, and the duration of the blooming period exceeds that of most other spring flowers. There is also endless variety of colour and of type to be found amongst them. Take, for example, the primrose to begin with, and we have double and single flowered ones, ranging in colour from white and yellow to crimson of the deepest tint, in various shades; lilacs also, and purples; and of late years some have appeared with such decidedly bluish tints that they raised the hope that by-and-by we shall yet possess that desirable colour of blue which has hitherto been desiderated but considered unattainable in primroses. The earliness of these flowers to appear is a high recommendation. In ordinary seasons they will begin to bloom about the middle of March, and will continue to the end of April or later, according as the weather may be favorable. Polyanthus are not so useful for spring flowering, because they bloom later somewhat, and are, from their habit of blooming, less massive in their effect. Yet they are indispensable spring flowers, their coloring being very pretty and chaste. To the florist the latter are always certain to maintain a very high place in his estimation, but the former will, with equal certainty, be in equal favour with those who simply desire to keep their gardens in perennial beauty and cheerfulness.

The culture of these plants is very simple. To obtain large numbers of them they should be raised from seed. Save seed from the best coloured flowers and from those plants only which throw flowers well above the foliage. Sow the seed as soon as it is ripe in pans in a cold frame. When the plants are fit to handle, prick them in a well-prepared bed of soil where they may enjoy a little shade. The soil they will thrive in best is light loam and leaf mould and hot bed manure. If the winter is wet, the plants should be protected with frame lights to prevent them from becoming injured by over saturation, from which they will suffer more than from frost if they are dry. The plants may remain in this bed till March, when they will be beginning to throw up their flower stalks, at which time they may be transplanted to their permanent quarters. The most vigorous plants are obtained from seed if treated in the way above described, and for ordinary purposes we consider the method the best that may be adopted, both on the score of economy and efficiency. But when special varieties must be increased, there is no other method of perpetuating them than by division or offsets. Division should be effected immediately flowering is over, and if possible in showery weather. A somewhat shady spot should be chosen to plant the offsets in, and the soil should be of the same description as that recommended for seedlings.

The seeds should be sown, as above advised, as soon as they are ripe. If left over till later in the season, they may yet be sown, but must be accommodated in cold frames in winter—the plants will be so small that without protection they would perish in great numbers from the combined influence of cold and damp. Should they not be sown till September or October they had better not be sown till spring, or say the following February; but in that case they will be the latest in the season. I think it will be weaker than if they were sown in the autumn, but I do not estimate based on so other considerations that that of the autumn is the best. The seedlings will be weaker than if they were sown in the autumn, but I do not estimate based on so other considerations that that of the autumn is the best. The seedlings will be weaker than if they were sown in the autumn, but I do not estimate based on so other considerations that that of the autumn is the best.

ENTS IN WINTER.

It is safe to say a loss of one half results—or a reduction of the value to \$37.50. If a farmer has four cows this loss amounts in a year to \$150. Can he not afford to haul some muck, and give some time to stabling his cattle and cleaning out his stables, for one hundred and fifty dollars? But what is this loss to the state at large? By the last census there were in this State 139,259 milch cows. If our figures of \$37.50 loss on each cow in Maine from not taking proper care of the fertilizing substances be thought too large, we will call it \$30—just for the sake of even figures—and then we have to the loss of the State of \$4,177,770. Then the working oxen are set down as 60,530; and other cattle, meaning we suppose young stock of all ages, as 143,272 head—a total of 203,802 head. Now deducting for the age of the young stock, and calling the oxen and other kinds of cattle equal to 200,000 cows—a fair assumption—each entailing a similar loss,—and we have \$6,000,000 to be added to the above, or a total of \$10,177,770.—a surprising amount to be lost in a single year—just so much ready cash—yet an amount which we suspect falls much below the actual figures, and which might be wholly saved by a little judicious effort and care. Is it not worth while to arrest some of this loss this very year, by summer stabling all the milch cows and other stock which runs in the home pasture, and by making some provision for a barn cellar or manure tank for use another winter? The cost of the last mode need not be great, as the expense may be saved twice over in a single year.

ON COLIC IN THE HORSE.

The symptoms once seen are readily detected. Mr. Armatage, in his recently-published work "Every Man his own Horse Doctor" (a book that is cleverly illustrated by a Bedfordshire artist, Mr. Stannard, with cuts of horses suffering under various diseases), says: "The animal scrapes with the forefeet, kicks at the belly, shifts about, turns round, smells the floor, crouches, puts the nose to the flanks, lies down, rolls, remains for a time on the back, and breathes heavily throughout. Gradually he slips over on the side, stretches out the legs, when the signs abate as suddenly as they began; he then rises, shakes himself, and the termination of the paroxysm is known by his looking about for food." As to the causes, irregular or unsuitable feeding, gorging with cold water, liver complaint, etc., we have nothing to do. But we venture to offer a word as to the means of relief and cure. Happily the days of relief and bleeding are gone by. Our best veterinary surgeons go in for gentler treatment and hygienic management. But the very suddenness of the attack often finds one unprepared, and therefore unable to cope successfully with it. A dose of linseed oil, or a strong purgative ball combined with an opiate, and a mounted messenger sent off for the farrier are the every-day methods adopted.

Now we have to say, very emphatically, that there is much reason, a far safer, a more certain means of relief and cure at hand in every household. Apply at once a horse cloth or woollen rug folded into two thickness, wrung out of boiling water, to the belly and up the sides, and cover tightly with another couple of cloths to retain the heat. As it cools, renew as often as needed. A large bran poultice, as hot as can be borne, is equally effective, and retains the heat longer. Should there at the same time be a difficulty in staling, which there often is, apply a similar hot cloth or poultice over the kidney, when the urine will be relieved. It is well, also, to give an injection of warm water, about blood heat, into the bowels; and, if the case needs it, a horn of hot water with a teaspoonful of tincture of cayenne into the stomach. Lay the animal in a well-bedded, loose box, darken the window, and leave him for a quarter of an hour. In an ordinary case, the cloths or bran poultice will not need above one renewal; in severe cases they may be shifted four times within the hour, and a hot fomentation also applied to the spine; this has a wonderfully soothing effect. When relieved, wash down with tepid water, dry well, cover up, give a bran mash and allow a day's rest to compensate for the loweringness that always supervenes. Now, whether the case is one of simple colic with a quiet pulse, or proceeds to inflammation of the stomach and intestines (enteritis), with a bounding flow of blood, the treatment is the same. It possesses the merit as other considerations that that of the autumn is the best.

RAISING CALVES WITHOUT MILK.

What is the best mode of feeding calves, where milk is valuable? Will you give a receipt for making hay tea for them as spoken of by one of your correspondents a few weeks ago? E. N. Montreal, P. Q. [Bad as much clover hay as can be crowded into the stable used, for half an hour. Strain the tea and while hot add a large handful of linseed meal to what is to be fed to each calf. Give about as much in quantity of the tea as would be given if milk were fed. After a few days the quantity of oil meal can be doubled. Also feed the calf all the green grass, freshly cut, that it will eat, twice per day.]—Country Gentleman.

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Now we have to say, very emphatically, that there is much reason, a far safer, a more certain means of relief and cure at hand in every household. Apply at once a horse cloth or woollen rug folded into two thickness, wrung out of boiling water, to the belly and up the sides, and cover tightly with another couple of cloths to retain the heat. As it cools, renew as often as needed. A large bran poultice, as hot as can be borne, is equally effective, and retains the heat longer. Should there at the same time be a difficulty in staling, which there often is, apply a similar hot cloth or poultice over the kidney, when the urine will be relieved. It is well, also, to give an injection of warm water, about blood heat, into the bowels; and, if the case needs it, a horn of hot water with a teaspoonful of tincture of cayenne into the stomach. Lay the animal in a well-bedded, loose box, darken the window, and leave him for a quarter of an hour. In an ordinary case, the cloths or bran poultice will not need above one renewal; in severe cases they may be shifted four times within the hour, and a hot fomentation also applied to the spine; this has a wonderfully soothing effect. When relieved, wash down with tepid water, dry well, cover up, give a bran mash and allow a day's rest to compensate for the loweringness that always supervenes. Now, whether the case is one of simple colic with a quiet pulse, or proceeds to inflammation of the stomach and intestines (enteritis), with a bounding flow of blood, the treatment is the same. It possesses the merit as other considerations that that of the autumn is the best.

RAISING CALVES WITHOUT MILK.

What is the best mode of feeding calves, where milk is valuable? Will you give a receipt for making hay tea for them as spoken of by one of your correspondents a few weeks ago? E. N. Montreal, P. Q. [Bad as much clover hay as can be crowded into the stable used, for half an hour. Strain the tea and while hot add a large handful of linseed meal to what is to be fed to each calf. Give about as much in quantity of the tea as would be given if milk were fed. After a few days the quantity of oil meal can be doubled. Also feed the calf all the green grass, freshly cut, that it will eat, twice per day.]—Country Gentleman.

ENTS IN WINTER.

It is safe to say a loss of one half results—or a reduction of the value to \$37.50. If a farmer has four cows this loss amounts in a year to \$150. Can he not afford to haul some muck, and give some time to stabling his cattle and cleaning out his stables, for one hundred and fifty dollars? But what is this loss to the state at large? By the last census there were in this State 139,259 milch cows. If our figures of \$37.50 loss on each cow in Maine from not taking proper care of the fertilizing substances be thought too large, we will call it \$30—just for the sake of even figures—and then we have to the loss of the State of \$4,177,770. Then the working oxen are set down as 60,530; and other cattle, meaning we suppose young stock of all ages, as 143,272 head—a total of 203,802 head. Now deducting for the age of the young stock, and calling the oxen and other kinds of cattle equal to 200,000 cows—a fair assumption—each entailing a similar loss,—and we have \$6,000,000 to be added to the above, or a total of \$10,177,770.—a surprising amount to be lost in a single year—just so much ready cash—yet an amount which we suspect falls much below the actual figures, and which might be wholly saved by a little judicious effort and care. Is it not worth while to arrest some of this loss this very year, by summer stabling all the milch cows and other stock which runs in the home pasture, and by making some provision for a barn cellar or manure tank for use another winter? The cost of the last mode need not be great, as the expense may be saved twice over in a single year.

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