

EVENING DISCUSSIONS AT NEW YORK STATE FAIR.

At the late New York State Fair at Albany, meetings were held each evening for discussion in the Agricultural Hall, a large and handsome building erected by the Society in a central part of the city, for the purposes of an office, library, museum, &c. One of the conductors of this journal had the pleasure of being present on two of the evenings. The subjects discussed were, The Management of Manures, The Treatment of Grass Lands, and The Soiling System. We take the remarks of a few of the speeches on Thursday evening, October 6, from the Report of "The Country Gentleman."

L. F. ALLEN of Black Rock. Every farmer should be allowed to tell his own story in his own way, for there are various causes which influence his circumstances, both natural and artificial, such as soil and climate, near or remote from market, &c., which he himself best knows, and which others are entirely ignorant of; and no man's system of farming should be condemned by another, simply because it does not apply to *his* individual circumstances. Hence we see that men of good judgment and careful experience differ widely, each in his own way. If a farmer hears another farmer say what *he* knows to be best, how can the former practise what the latter teaches? Soils need different treatment, and that treatment which one person gives his land and which succeeds, may not succeed with another. Doubtless some soils when once laid down, are better to be kept so; others need to be often plowed up. In good dairy regions of England, pastures have laid since the conquest with a surface manuring, and now produce better than ever. The soils of Westchester have never been moved, and are now better than ever before. In the southern counties, three-fourths of the land has never been plowed either in mowing or pasture, and their meadows now yield 3 tons per acre. These meadows also show at the present day, the cradle knolls of centuries ago, and the owners of those farms will not let the sod be broken upon them. They know very well that there is a rich vegetable deposit of leaves that has constituted a humus in the soil, which if once broken is lost forever.

Hon. JOSIAH QUINCY, Jr., of Massachusetts, took the stand. The substance of his remarks was as follows:—In connection with the subject of soiling, one of the first questions asked is, how much land does it require to keep a cow? I have learned that one square rod of grass, barley, oats, or corn, is sufficient for the food of a cow a single day. The best fodder for the purpose of soiling is grass, oats, Indian corn and barley. My system is this; I use grass until July; about the 5th of April, oats are planted at the rate of four bushels per acre; they are also planted on the 20th of April, and the 1st of May. This lasts through July and August, and corn so planted will remain succulent for about ten days. The southern variety of corn is then sown in drills, in the quantity of three bushels the acre, which furnishes food for September and October. Barley is then planted ten days apart, which lasts till vegetables come on. In winter the feed consisted of hay, cotton seed meal, and roots—[Mr. Quincy here spoke of the advantages arising from this system, which he alluded to in his remarks the previous evening, and continued]—The great increase in the soiling system is as seven to one; that where only one cow was kept without this practice, seven can be kept by it, and I have demonstrated that one acre of land in a good state of cultivation, will afford sufficient food to keep three cows through the season. [Here the gentleman alluded to the manner of using liquid manure, as practised by Mr. Mechi in England, which consists of a serious of pipes in the ground, through which liquid manure is forced by means of steam power—which has before been described in the Co. GENT—and he also spoke of the system of manuring in Scotland, by which their lands have been made to produce from five to seven crops in one year, and further remarked.] It has been well said that there are three important elements or principles which constitute a good farm; the first of these is manure, the second is *manure*, and the third is MANURE! I place but little confidence in patent fertilizers, so great is the adulteration in most kinds, but strongly urge each farmer to raise his own manure upon his own farm. Muck I use as an absorbent, by placing it in a gutter in the stable for my cows, which gutter is eighteen inches wide and four deep. There is a cellar under the stable into which the manure passes. I am sorry to say that I keep only about twenty cows;—in the morning and evening these are let out in the yard, where they remain a few hours, as it is