

HOW TO MISMANAGE A GARDEN.

From a series of chapters in London Agricultural Gazette, on the above named subject, we select the following sarcastic directions as adopted by the mismanager in the use and application of water:—

Water is not an uncommon source of profit to the mismanager. It is quite astonishing, indeed, how easily this element may be made to assist in spoiling a garden.

Foolish people say that it is a part of the food by which plants exist, and it requires to be administered with care, skill, and discretion. But your geniuses are not to be bamboozled by fine names, or what the world believes to be authority. They know better. How, indeed, can anything be fed on water? Can a man, or a horse, or a sheep? Even a gosse on a common would not live on water, but must have grass. How, then, should a plant? The opinion of the mismanager is decidedly that water is of no other use than to moisten the soil, and therefore, he keeps his soil as wet as he can.

He has also his own ways of applying it. When he waters the plants in his borders, he gives them "just a sprinkle," by holding the watering can high, and allowing the drops to dash on the ground "quite natural like." By repeating this operation once a-day, he will by degrees bring his ground to a nice hard surface, so as to keep in the heat, and be easily raked. It is true that hard, hot ground is not favorable to the admission of water; but, then, it has the advantage of looking well; and besides, if water is poured on it, somewhere or other it must go, and it will be sure to find its way to the roots—if it does not find its way to the gravel walks or a neighboring ditch.

In like manner, if plants are in pots, they should be deluged overhead, from a coarse-rosed watering can. When you see the water running out of the hole in the bottom of the pot, you can be under no mistake that plants have had enough. It is true a good deal of soil and other matters run out of the pot along with the water; but that is of no consequence; there is the more room in the pot for a further supply of water. It is true that little or no water remains in the pot, the ball of earth being too hard to receive it; but that is also of no importance, because it is so easy to water it again.

Some people, on the other hand, soak their potted plants very gently, and when the ball of earth has taken all it can, they then remove it carefully from the water. But that is troublesome, takes up a great deal of time, slops a man's legs, and is merely a fancy of folks who pretend to be wiser than their neighbors.

Another method to be particularly recommended, is, to water trees in the open ground, by pouring down water at the foot of the stem. The man who has genius for mismanagement knows the advantage of that.—Water is to moisten roots; the biggest roots at the foot of the stem; therefore water should be applied to the foot of the stem. It must be owned that the advantage of the practice is not apparent, unless a heavy storm of rain should fall immediately afterwards; but as the reasoning is correct the practice must be right.

It will be evident that the plans of the mismanager are far more judicious than those of the man who contrives to irrigate his beds by turning a gentle stream over them. If it were only because so much labor is saved by irrigation, such a Frenchified way ought never to be adopted. It is just as absurd as that plan of warming water in tanks artificially heated or exposed to the sun, before using it. Who would drink luke-

warm flat water, if he could get fresh and cold from a deep well; and why should a plant like it? As to warming it by hot-water pipes, that is about the silliest scheme of the modern pretenders to a knowledge of gardening. A laboring man might as soon think of washing his face and hands in warm water. Besides, plants cannot feel. If you ask our friend, the genius, whether he does not think that warm water would agree better than cold with a laborer in a violent perspiration, or who had been stewing all day in a hot-house, he triumphantly enquires whether a plant is a man. It may be true that tropical plants come from countries where cold water is unknown; perhaps they do; perhaps they don't. At any rate the mismanager will teach them how to bear it; and it cannot be denied that to harden plants is an object with all real gardeners.

Never have a syringe? It only throws water on leaves; but where is the advantage of moistening leaves. Even if plants did feed on water, they would not feed by their leaves. You might as well put a man's roast beef under his arm pit and expect him to fatten by it. Still more repugnant to all the mismanager's ideas is the foolish habit of syringing the walls and brick paths of a greenhouse. What is the use of that? What good can it do a plant to throw water on a brick wall not within a yard of it? No, no; keep the footpaths dry and nice to walk upon; keep the walls dry too—if you do not they are very likely to be covered with "green," and then you will make things comfortable. If you do employ a syringe be sure to use it most when vines are in flower, and afterwards when they are in fruit; and in the greenhouse, first when the flowers are opening, and next when the wood is ripening. When they are making their growth it is of no consequence.

BONES AS MANURE.—The use of bones as manure was commenced in England, about 1776. It was then common to apply from 60 to 70 and even 100 bushels to the acre—they being coarsely broken by hammers. Experience has proved, however, that so large a quantity does not produce effects in proportion, and 10 to 12 bushels are now thought to be sufficient in most cases. The annual value of bones used in England for manure, is estimated at £380,000 or \$4,400,000.

PHOSPHATE OF LIME.—We learn from Dr. E. EMMONS that an inexhaustible supply of this article has been discovered on the west shore of Lake Champlain, at Crown Point. A considerable quantity of it was quarried last autumn, some of which has been examined by Dr. E., and also by Prof. NORTON, and has been found to contain from four to five per cent of phosphate. It may be prepared for use as manure, either by being ground in a mill, after the manner of grinding plaster, or it may be burnt, like lime. It is harder than plaster, and would require more force in pulverizing. When burnt, it readily falls to powder.

It will be recollected that the use of phosphate of lime has been attended with highly favorable results in some parts of Europe, particularly on old pasture grounds, and such as have been much devoted to grain crops, which have been exhausted of their phosphates. We trust that accurate trials of this article will be made the coming season, in comparison with bones and other manures, for various crops and on various soils, and that the results will be given to the public. Farmers will then have some criterion by which they may determine its relative value, and the expediency of purchasing it as a manure.—*Cultivator*.