

ILLAWARRA HOPS.—Amongst the new productions which, within the last two or three years, have come into the colonial market, the article of hops forms a prominent item. Hitherto we have been entirely dependent on importation from England and America for this essential article to the brewing of sound and wholesome beer. It is no stretch of the imagination to predict that in the course of four or five years our native growth of hops will supersede the necessity of importing them, notwithstanding the great increase of consumption arising from the change of the working classes in preferring a pot of ale or porter to ardent spirits. From an estimate of the quantity of beer brewed in the Australian colonies, the annual consumption of hops cannot be less than fifty tons, with an increasing demand. A sample of colonial hops has been sent us, which we are assured by those who are competent judges may be put in competition with the best imported Kent hops, without losing anything by the comparison. The sample is from the plantation of Mr. T. Jesset, at Dapto, whose growth off a young plantation is not less than a ton and a-half; the ensuing year will, it is reasonably conjectured add at least another ton to the production. A bale, usually called a pocket, of this new production, is, we understand, to be seen at the office of Messrs. Sheppard and Alger, 468, George-street, who have kindly undertaken to show the same to any person who may feel an interest in this important matter.—*Sydney paper*.

TWO HINTS FOR FARMERS.—At the annual meeting of the Roses Agricultural Society last week, T. Batson, Esq., said—"There are two matters of a practical nature which, with your permission, I should like to introduce to your notice. The first is the system of steaming food. I believe that this year it will be impossible to calculate the great advantages that will be gained by the use of the steaming-apparatus. I have myself been able to steam hay perfectly white with mould, which afterwards cattle and sheep would eat in preference to the best hay that could be cut from the middle of a rick. At this moment I am using steamed turnips for pigs; and I have pigs on my farm which for the last month have been increasing in weight at the rate of 20lbs. a week. This perhaps is not very extraordinary; but I think you will not find many instances of pigs increasing in weight to such an extent, and it shows what the system of steaming is calculated to effect. The other matter is the cultivation of mustard. This many persons have tried, and have found it to answer exceedingly well; but I hope to see the day when it will be as common to sow mustard after the corn is cleared off, as it is to fallow it with turnips. Many benefits arise from it; it keeps down the weeds, and is profitable, while the outlay upon it is only about 4s. per acre."

THE CULTIVATION OF BEET-ROOT.—Some ship-owners of Dunkerque having addressed a letter to the Ministers of Commerce, demanding the suppression of beet-root sugar, which, they say, ruins the soil and starves the people of the northern departments, the minister has written a reply, in which he admits that the cultivation of beet-root lessens the production of corn. About 55,000 hectares of good land (nearly 140,000 acres) says the minister, are occupied in the cultivation of the beet-root; and that is about the one-hundredth part of the soil devoted to the cultivation of corn, the total quantity of such land being 55,000,000 hectares, which yield annually 69,000,000 hectolitres. If this one-hundredth part, adds the minister, had been sown with wheat, it would have yielded about 6,000,000 hectolitres; and this yield would have caused the imports which have been made and are to be made between the harvest of 1847 and 1848, which are estimated at 14,000,000 hectolitres, to be reduced more than one-half. These facts, the minister admits, support the views expressed by the ship-owners; but he says that considerations of a contrary description may be brought forward, and that the suppression of native sugar would encounter great obstacles. The government, therefore, he observes, cannot take any engagements; but he adds that the question, which is grave and delicate, is the object of all its solicitude.—*Galvani*.

CULTIVATION OF POTATOES.—The effects of different manures on the produce of potatoes is a matter of such interest, that we give the result of certain experiments made by the Rev. Robert Johnson, of Richmond, Yorkshire; the knowledge of which may not be unprofitable to the cultivators of that root. In April, 1847, eight rows of "June reds" were planted, each row seven yards long.

Row.	Manure.	Produce in lbs.
1.	{ Wood ashes.....	35
2.	{ Steeped in Kagesbush's mixture...	25—60
3.	{ Guano.....	38
4.	{ Steeped in Kagenbush's mixture...	41—79
5.	{ Compost.....	31
6.	{ Steeped in Kagenbush's mixture...	28—59
7.	{ Soot.....	42
8.	{ Steeped in Kagenbush's mixture...	47—89

It would appear, therefore, that soot is the most efficacious stimulant to the growth of the potato.—*Leeds Mercury*.

A little book "On Manures," recently published in French, concludes with the following sensible maxim:—"The scarcity of manures is the cause of the sterility of a country, and it is useless to improve the mechanical methods of culture if we neglect this source of fertility."

In Flanders it is commonly believed that the first crop exhausts one half of the manure.—*Comptes rendu à l'Académie*.