

### The Rotation of Crops.

The productiveness of the soil depends upon the substances present in the soil, and still more on the condition of the substances as to availability. That is where and how the rotation of crops comes in and can be of very great benefit to the farmer who understands the underlying principle, or at least follows the practice. Some crops by growing on land not merely give a good return in themselves, but they make available in the soil the plant-food that the succeeding or some succeeding crop needs and can get in better form through their action.

It is admitted that the rotation of crops has been the chief means of improving the agriculture of Great Britain and some other parts of Europe during the century. The practice itself consists in growing roots (or some other cultivated green crop), and leguminous crops (such as clover, beans or peas) or grass (or hay crops), alternately with cereal crops ripened for grain. The famous four-course Norfolk rotation was roots, barley, clover or beans, and wheat. The chief point seems to be to make those crops follow each other which have different requirements, as to the time of the season when they benefit most by plenty of available plant-food in the soil and different habits of growth in other respects, particularly in the ranges of their roots. The rotation for any farm must have regard to the soil, the climate, the markets for rotation crops, and other local conditions. Not only the increase in the yield of crops has to be taken into account, but also the value and uses to which the crops can be put when grown. It is for every one to determine what crops he can raise and sell at a profit, and then to plan a rotation to give each of those crops the best possible chance to yield largely.—*Prof. Robertson before Agricultural Committee House of Commons.*

The true moment at which to call upon one's self to take any new step in virtue is at the fainting point, when it would seem so easy to drop all and give all up; when, if you do not, you make of yourself a power.—*J. F. W. Ware.*

### Publishers' Desk.

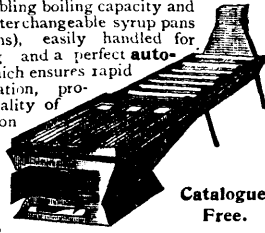
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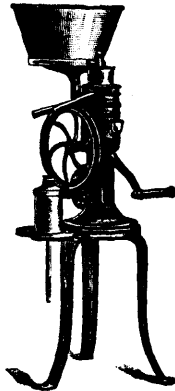
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