

## MANAGEMENT OF PASTURES.

The value of pasture consists in its capability of furnishing grazing from early spring until late in the autumn. To reach the best results in this direction has been the study of the most acute farmers of England for the last fifty years. The success has only been measurable even in that cool, moist climate, one of the best for grass in the world. Even there the greatest success has only been attained by means of irrigation during certain seasons. In the United States, with our cold winters and hot, dry summers, the difficulty is intensified; and our best feeders, especially dairymen, have found themselves obliged to fall back on special crops—corn, sorghum, alfalfa, where it will stand, and various other soiling crops, to be cut green—to tide over the drouths and heat of July and August. That plants will ever be found adapted to grazing that will produce succulent food through the hot, dry months of summer is hardly to be expected; hence we must be content with those plants that give an abundance early and late, falling back upon forage crops and the grain of Indian corn, which, fortunately, can be raised so cheaply in the west and which will compensate for the lack of moisture that has made the meadows and pastures of Great Britain the theme of poets the world over.—*Breeder's Gazette*.

## STIR THE SOIL.

That is what weeds are for, to induce the farmer to stir the soil and cultivate the crops. If we can't use the hoe, use the plough and cultivator to keep the surface of the soil loose and mellow.

It is a question worth considering how much hoeing and cultivating, or rather how little, would be given to crops, were it not for the presence of weeds. The farmer is apt to say, "The corn or the potato field is getting very weedy and must be cultivated," but one rarely says, "The soil must be stirred."

An English gardener says he does not agree with those who say that one good weeding is worth two hoeings. He says:—"Never weed a crop in which a hoe can be used, not so much for the sake of destroying weeds, which must be the case if the hoeing be well done, as for increasing the porosity of the soil, to allow the air and water to penetrate freely through it. Oftentimes there is more benefit derived by crops from keeping them well hoed than there is from the manure applied. Weeds or no weeds, I keep stirring the soil, well knowing from practice the very beneficial effect it has."—*Western Agriculturist*.

## THEORY OF CROP ROTATION.

A writer in *Country Gentleman*, of Tyrone, Pa., whose initials are W. G. W., makes these suggestions:

"It is now generally admitted that rotation of crops is rendered necessary, not, as formerly supposed, because the soil becomes exhausted of some necessary element, or becomes unwholesome for that particular plant, owing to poisonous excreta left by the roots, but because insects and diseases accompany the plant which are special to it, the eggs or spores of which are left in the soil to attack the same crop in the next following year with hundredfold increase of numbers and power. Prof. Bessy, of the Iowa Agricultural College, shows how this is the case with smut, which grows up all through the interior of a wheat plant, and finally develops its spores within the bran-casing of the grain, filling it not with flour, but with innumerable black, stinking seed of the parasite which, when set free, float out and stick fast to sound grains of wheat, and also to particles

of the soil, where they lie ready to enter into the circulation of the next year's growth of wheat plants, unless killed by steeping the polluted seed in blue vitriol solution, and drying off with lime. As to polluted soil, it is purified from the contamination only by using it for some other crop on which the smut plant cannot take hold."

## A VALUABLE HINT.

The *Orange County Farmer* says concerning housing manure:—"When farmers learn from experience that by housing manure and thoroughly working it over, mixing with absorbants such as muck, earth, road dust, leaves, etc., to take up the liquid and the ammonia set free, its value is double what it now is, and at an expense, too, much less than the same amount of plant food could be obtained in an artificial fertilizer, a new era will have been reached in agriculture, and we shall see the fertility of the old farms brought back to where they were fifty years ago."

## LIMING MEADOWS.

Liming meadows or old pasture lands with, say, thirty bushels to the acre, has an effect upon the condition of the crop of grass that few farmers would believe without giving it a trial. In fact, we do not know how the same amount of money can be expended upon land with the same profit. It is not only certain but lasting. We have known farmers to pasture meadows fifty years without being turned up by the simple application of lime once in six or ten years. These pastures which are regarded as permanent, and mostly abound in clay moulds, after being grazed down thoroughly, are restored almost knee-deep in from five to six weeks. We do not hesitate to say that nowhere has lime a more marked effect, and can be used with better results, than in the renovation of old pastures.—*Orange County Farmer*.

## CARE OF FARM IMPLEMENTS.

A correspondent writing to the *American Rural Home* says:—"Do not let any of your farm implements remain exposed to the weather. When not in use keep them housed by all means. By letting farm machinery stay in the field exposed to rain, dews, winds and the hot sun, they receive more injury than from careful usage. I know of a sulky-rake that has done the raking on a large, rough farm, for eleven years, that is as good as new; but it has been taken good care of and housed when not in actual use. Farmer friend, I tell you it pays to take good care of your tools."

## CURING CLOVER HAY

A writer in *Farm and Fireside* says that in order to cure clover as it should be, let the exterior of the stems and leaves cure in the sun, but for a comparatively short proportion of the time required for its proper curing which should be mainly done in the cook. By this process an equalization of moisture takes place. That is, the exterior of the stem and leaves become partly dried as it falls, when cut by the sickle of the mowing machine, and the process called sweating, after it is cocked up, is merely the passage of the excess of moisture in the succulent stems to restore the equilibrium to the surface. After this has taken place, but little more drying should be given the clover than is secured by exposure in loading in the field and unloading at the barn or rick.

When you have a little pie-crust, do not throw it away; roll it thin, cut in small squares, and bake. Just before tea put a spoonful of raspberry jelly on each square.

## HINTS FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

Stings of insects are relieved by the application of ammonia, or common table salt, or a slice of onion to the part.

To keep flies off gilt frames boil three or four onions in a pint of water, and apply with a soft brush.

To beat the white of eggs quickly put in a pinch of salt; salt cools, and the cooler the eggs the quicker they will froth.

BAKED EGGS.—Break eight eggs in a well-buttered dish; put in pepper, salt, and butter, and three tablespoonfuls of cream. Bake twenty minutes.

An agreeable and appetizing dish is made by cooking asparagus and peas together. Cut tender stalks of asparagus in small pieces (both vegetables require the same length of time to cook), season with cream, pepper and salt, or in place of cream use milk with a lump of butter melted in it.

In gardens and greenhouses, where boiling water cannot be poured on, ants' haunts may be easily removed by using picked bones, which will be soon covered with ants, which may be destroyed in hot water. Repeat the process and the ants will soon be cleared out, if a number of bones are used, which may be placed in out-of-the-way spots where they will not be seen, but where the ants will soon find them.

CHOCOLATE PIE.—To one pint of water take four spoonfuls of grated chocolate, six of sugar, and two of corn starch, beside a small piece of butter and the yolks of two eggs, well beaten; stir them all together, and putting them in the pint of boiling water, stir them until they take on the consistency of custard. A spoonful of vanilla may be added if liked. Bake in a rich crust with the whites in the form of a meringue on the top.

LEMON RIND.—When using lemons for any purpose, it will be found an economical plan to grate the yellow rind off, mix it with an equal quantity of sugar, and put it up in an empty box with a tight cover. This will be delicious for flavouring custards, molasses cake, and anything else where lemon extract is used. It retains the strength of the lemon while cooking, and is much more delicate to the taste than the oil or extract of lemon.

A Dainty dish for dessert is made of three tablespoonfuls of peach or raspberry marmalade or jam, two ounces of fine bread crumbs, and two well-beaten eggs, a quarter of a pound of sweet almonds, blanched and rubbed or pounded to a smooth paste, or they may be chopped; beat an ounce of butter till it is light as cream, then stir all these together, beating till mixed thoroughly then butter some small cups, and fill them two-thirds full with the mixture; bake for twenty minutes in slow oven.

RICE is becoming a much more popular article of food than heretofore. It is frequently substituted for potatoes at the chief meal of the day, being more nutritious and much more readily digested. At its present cost, it is relatively cheaper than potatoes, oatmeal, or grain-grits of any kind. In preparing it, only enough cold water should be poured on to prevent the rice from burning at the bottom of the pot, which should have a close-fitting cover, and with a moderate fire the rice is steamed rather than boiled until it is nearly done; then the cover is taken off, the surplus steam and moisture allowed to escape, and the rice turns out a mass of snow white kernels, each separate from the other, and as much superior to the usual soggy mass as a fine mealy potato is superior to the water-soaked article.