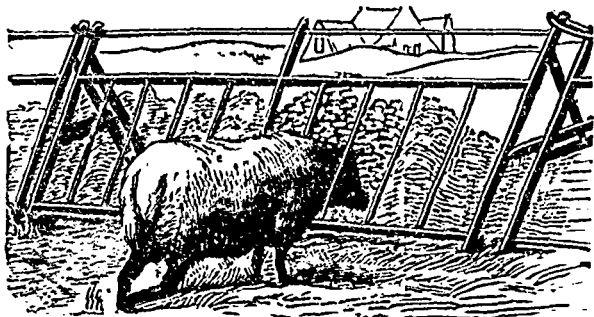


have their bellies pretty full, and the evening dews have not begun to fall.

The land should be as carefully prepared for Rape as for Mangolds, or Swedes. A cross-ploughing, in the Spring, followed by the harrows, the roller and the cultivator, or grubber, if there is one handy, should leave the land in a fine tilth by the middle, or end of May. From 6 lbs. to 8 lbs. of seed per acre can be either harrowed in, with light harrows,



or with a bush; or, if the soil be a little cloddy, a roller may be used; but so early in the season I should prefer to leave a harrowed surface, to a rolled surface, as being less likely to suffer consolidation and, consequently, hardening on the top, from heavy rains followed by a hot Sun, unless, as in the case of Tares &c., where a scythe has to be subsequently used, and even then I should rather roll after the crop is up.

When the hurry of harvest is over, choose a piece of land, in good condition, either in stubble, or where the first crop of Tares has grown, and, having ploughed it, and made it decently fine, scatter over it 3 lbs. of Rapeseed and 10 lbs. of Hungarian grass seed to the acre, and harrow it in. It will be ready to feed by the beginning of October, and will be of the greatest possible use for the following purpose.

I suppose every body knows that meadows in which Timothy grass grows should never be fed at all. Owing to its, so to speak, bulbous habit of growth, the roots are easily extracted, and the injury done can never be repaired: consequently, towards the Autumn, the Cattle, being restricted to the pastures, which by that time are, except in very wet seasons, pretty bare, retire into winter quarters in by no means a proper condition to bear the, necessarily, hard fare they may expect there. The steers and heifers lose flesh, the cows fall off in their milk just when butter sells, in our Towns, at a good price, and the poor animals never, during the whole season, recover from the check, but go out to grass the following Spring with the double duty of repairing the waste of flesh and fat, and of yielding milk at the same time, imposed upon them.

Now this slight trouble of sowing a mixture of Rape and Hungarian grass over two, or more acres, according to the size of the farm, would remedy this misfortune. The grass may be touched by the frost, but the cows will eat it and the Rape together, and the dryness of the one will modify the moistness of the other; tho' there is no danger to be feared if the animals have a little straw to eat before they are turned out after milking. I can answer for it, that the flavour and colour of the butter will be all that can be desired, in fact, no one could tell any difference between it and grass-fed butter. Pray don't fancy, my reader, that the cows will scour. Rape is a very much sounder food than Turnip tops, and never produces diarrhoea.

Should you wish to grow your own Rapeseed, a hundred or two of the roots might be stowed away in the cellar, or root house, and planted out in the Spring—it yields largely, but,

unfortunately, birds are very fond of it, which militates against its ripening. The price is very low, about 12 cents a pound, so its hardly worth the trouble of growing. The refuse of the seed, after the Oil-crushers have done with it, is used for fattening, and for manure, under the name of Rape-cake. When best Linseed cake is worth £10.10 a Ton (in England) Rape-cake sells for £6.5 to £6.10. It is rather bitter, and the animals will never eat much of it, 3 lbs. to 4 lbs. a day, at most; whereas they will devour 9 lbs. or 10 lbs. of Linseed cake, and make no fuss about it. As manure, Rape cake used to be employed largely, in the East of England, for Wheat. Highly nitrogenous, it was the best substitute for dung before Guano was imported.

Having now, cursorily, gone over the list of forage crops which I mentioned at the beginning of this paper, I think it would be as well to speak, shortly, of the manures best suited to the different plants I have been describing. And, not to plunge too deeply into botanical distinctions, they may be divided into two classes, the grasses, and the pod-bearing plants. Of the former we have talked of Rye and Hungarian grass; of the latter we have mentioned Lucerne, Clover, Tares and Rape. Now it is pretty safe to aver that the specific manurial substance for the former is Nitrogen, and, for the latter, Sulphuric acid. Of course Potash is of benefit to both classes, but there really are so many ways in which any amount of ashes might be collected on the great majority of our farms, at a very small cost of labour, that it is hardly worth mentioning. Moreover wherever a fair amount of stock is kept, the quantity of Potash in the manure made is very large, still, if one could find, here in Canada, a deposit of Kaunit, or mineral potash, it would be very serviceable.

As to Sulphuric Acid, it is cheap enough, and plentiful enough, in fact it is constantly used all over the country under the form of "Plaster," which is, simply, a combination of Sulphuric Acid and Lime.

Nitrogenous manures are quite another thing. It, nitrogen, is the grand desideratum, to the farmer, of the present day. It is very scarce, and, consequently, very dear. Guano is too high priced to be used with profit, so is Nitrate of Soda. The refuse skins, ears &c. of the Tanneries contain a considerable proportion of Nitrate of Lime when rotted, but the quantity to be had is very small. We, on our farms, waste it every day, by neglecting to preserve the urine of our animals. Can't we be persuaded that it is, really and practically, the most powerful manure to be found? Put a drop of Spirits of Hartshorn into a table spoonful of water and give it to any small flower in a pot, see, after a few doses, how the whole look of the plant is changed! It is only Nitrogen, after all, that has done it, Spirits of Hartshorn being dilute Ammonia which, in its turn is composed of Nitrogen and Hydrogen. As for the mineral Superphosphate alone, it is, except for Swedes, Turnips &c., perfectly useless. combined with Ammonia, however, it forms a most valuable manure, as Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert have proved, in their report to the Royal Agricultural Society of England of their painstaking experiments at Rothamstead, about which I hope to have something to say in an early number of this Journal.

There is plenty of saw dust to be had near most farms, and no better absorbent can be found for the urine. Of course, liquid manure tanks are out of the question, but nine tenths of the urine might be saved by such a material as I have just mentioned being used. Labour is low now; England is anxious for all the supplies of meat, cheese and butter we can send her, and this is the time to make preparations for a more extended trade in those articles. But, to succeed, there must be active exertion, perhaps, truth to tell, even our Eastern Townships people are accustomed to take things a little coolly; the world is rushing on at a terrible pace, and, if