

The reason why the water should not touch the bulbs is, that if the plant is slow in growing, the organisable matter of the bulb is distended with fluid before it can decompose it, and so becomes putrid, and communicates disease in all directions by virtue of its contagious properties. On the contrary, if the roots are active, and the leaves are beginning to grow, what water is taken up, is immediately converted into some of the matter that hyacinths feed on.

After the roots have made a fair appearance, water may be allowed to reach their tips, but not sooner, and it is only when the leaves are green and unfolding, that any water should be permitted to touch the bulb.

At that time, that is to say, when the leaves are green, a lump of charcoal the size of an egg may be advantageously dropped into the water. It will prevent the water becoming putrid, and will act as a manure.

None of these precautions can, however, be of any avail, unless the hyacinths are kept close to the light continually, from the time when the leaves are first turned green. Thus, and thus only, will a healthy growth be preserved, and a fine vigorous head of flowers insured. Above all things, be careful to make the plants grow as slowly as possible at first, so as to accumulate vigour against the season for them to blossom.

ECONOMICAL FARMING.—As most farmers pursue their business as a means of support for themselves and families, or for profit, it is of the greatest importance to study economy in order to accomplish these desirable objects. All the industry and the most skillful management, in other respects will not avail to make farming a good business without economy in every department. We have particular reference to economy in labor, not in regard to the amount to be performed, but to the manner of performing it, in order that there may be the least possible expense.

The farmers may pursue nearly the same course in raising crops, on farms that are similar, and each may get about the same amount of produce, one making it a profitable business, while the other will lose. The produce of one will cost twice as much as the other, though both had the same advantages in the beginning. One will raise corn at 50 cents a bushel and make it a good business, while the other extends a dollar in raising the same quantity.

One farmer will improve his tillage by removing all obstructions to the plough, and draining, or adding sand or gravel when it is too wet, and adding mud and clay to light lands, and supplying various manures to suit the texture of the soil, so that not only far less labor will be required to the same extent of land, but much larger crops will be obtained.

Some farmers will use four oxen and two hands to plow the same land which another would plow equally as well in the same time, with only half the team and hands.—In some cases the principal difference is owing to the ploughs that are used, for some plows require only about half as much draught as others, to perform the same work. In planting too, there is a difference of one half in labor. One will spread a part of the manure, and then furrow, or dig holes with the hoe, and apply the remainder of the manure in the hill. When land is prepared and highly manured, there will usually be as good a crop by spreading the manure, and sometimes it will be better, and the soil will be more improved than by putting it in the

hill; and there will be less waste by the escape of gases in fermentation, and the manure will be more equally mixed with the soil.

In hoeing, one half the labor is saved by having the land well prepared and the corn planted in such a manner that most of the work can be done by the cultivator and plough; and the use of these implements will improve the crop. By having the land well prepared and highly manured a large crop may be obtained, at little more labor than is requisite in going over the same land in poor condition, and obtaining a small crop.

In harvesting corn, nearly half the labor may be saved by cutting it up at the ground when well glazed, instead of cutting the top stalks, and afterwards gathering the corn, and then cutting up the buds, as the fashion was and now is with many. For a number of years we have recommended the improved mode as we have found from experience that it is attended with many advantages as to saving the crop of corn and stalks with much less labor, and having the land clear for a crop of turnips, for sowing rye, or for any other purpose.

It is the same with other crops. We have known many cases of farmers who would give the amount of the seed sown in payment for reaping the grain, because neither they nor any of their hands were willing to bend their backs to the use of the sickle. How would farmers in the West succeed in raising grain if they expended as much in harvesting, as the estimated cost of this operation in this section? In some parts of the country grain is not worth much more than farmers here would reckon the cost of harvesting—for instance, corn at 12 1-2 cts per bushel in seasons of plenty. Some years ago we were in the West and worked at harvesting grain which was done mostly with the sickle. The neighbors changed work, and arranged matters so as to have 12 men together in a field of grain, who reaped, bound up carried together, and shocked 12 acres in a day. With the same despatch in raising our grain we should not estimate the cost of corn at a dollar a bushel and wheat at two dollars.

We believe that corn may be raised in New England at from 60 to 75 cents per bushel, and wheat at 100 to 135 cents per bushel; and our grain is worth these prices on an average, as southern grain sells in New England. Though we may find it most profitable to import a part of our bread stuff, while we can obtain it from other sections in exchange for other productions, yet we think that the farmers of New England can compete with the South and West in our markets.

MANAGEMENT OF HENS, BY J. L. CHILD.—My hens laid nearly as well during the winter as in the warm weather. Their habitation was warm, and so constructed as to bring them to the ground, where they found at all times, a good supply of old plastering, ashes, pulverised oyster shells, charcoal fresh water, once or twice a week beef liver, or some other kind of meat. I feed chiefly upon baked or boiled potatoes giving their food to them warm in the morning and at night, occasionally dealing to them a little corn or oats, and give them all the crumbs, and skins, and fragments of the cooked vegetables. To prevent their being infested with lice, about once a fortnight I mix in dough, so as to discolour it, a quantity of flower of brimstone, which is a sure preventive as well as remedy, and may be safely given in small quantities to young chickens, for the same purpose.

It will be seen from my mode of keeping my hens, which average about twenty-five and three