

the first covering of snow, present appearances, after so much severe weather, seem to indicate the probability of an early spring. Whether these anticipations should be realised or not, it is clearly the duty and interest of the farmer to be full, prepared to commence operations as soon as the season will admit. His future plans should now be finally determined, and all kinds of implements repaired and got ready for use. Before the snow is quite gone the necessary amount of rails should be hauled to all such places where the fences require repairing,—a work of indispensable importance, and which will run a great risk of being neglected if not performed before the numerous and pressing duties of spring actually commence. Some people sow clover and grass seeds on the snow, a practice that is, we understand, often found to answer well, though as a general rule we should prefer performing the operation when the surface is dry, immediately after the first warm rains of spring, and to finish with a light harrowing or rolling. Some practical observations on matters of detail will be in time in our next number.

We would now remind the reader of the importance of getting in readiness not only his ploughs, harrows, &c., so that not a single hour be lost when the proper period arrives for commencing cultivation, but also his seed grain of every description. More timely attention, we understand, is now given to these matters than formerly, but so much depends on the prompt manner of doing these things that it can never be considered superfluous to remind farmers of them. We strongly urge them to select the purest and best quality of seed, whether of spring grain, grasses, or roots, that they can possibly command. Sufficient attention is very rarely paid to these matters; and the consequence is that much loss is sustained, and the general character of our produce lowered. A perfect cure, perhaps, will only be found in keeping the different species and varieties of grain absolutely distinct, either in ricks or separate departments of a building, so that no intermixture can take place. The present system of housing all kinds in barns loudly calls for reform.

Those farmers who have a stock of turnips, mangels, &c., on hand will now appreciate their value. During this and the succeeding month they may be most advantageously fed to cattle

and horses; and especially to cows and breeding ewes, that a full supply of milk may be obtained for their young. All kinds of roots now in store, whether in or out of doors, should be turned over and examined; picking out such as are decomposed or decomposing, and leaving in air to sweeten the mass and prevent vegetation. Potatoes should be carefully picked over and such as appear most suitable for seed left by themselves, taking pains that the selections are pure, that is, unmixed. Roots of all kinds are peculiarly liable by the increasing temperature of the air and their own tendency to ferment, to deteriorate rapidly at this season, by sprouting, unless the above precautions are strictly and timely observed.

Yearning ewes will now require the best attention, they should be separated from the rest of the flock, kept in a dry, sheltered, but well ventilated place, for nothing is so injurious to sheep as a damp and close situation. A small quantity of roots and a little corn, barley, or other meal, regularly given, with good hay and pea straw, and plenty of dry litter. In the middle of the day when warm and dry, ewes should be allowed to go into the open air, if yards, or the sheltered corner of a field, for exercise, but the young lambs should not accompany them, unless under peculiarly favorable circumstances, in regard to warmth and dryness. All exposure to changes of temperature, particularly when accompanied by dampness, is particularly injurious to lambs, and is not unfrequently followed by fatal results. While the ewes are out, the lambs may be gradually brought to eat some finely chopped hay or meal given in shallow troughs, which will tend to strengthen them, and improve their condition.

Notwithstanding the severity of the winter now drawing to a close, and the large amount of snow that has fallen, and which has in many places stopped all kinds of travel for several days, we hope from all we hear, that live stock will come out in spring in quite as good condition generally as could have been expected. The supply of hay was not great, but the extension of root culture has already in some measure met a deficiency from that source and to the raising of increased crops of Swedish turnip, mangels, carrots and parsnips, we must mainly look for sustaining our increased herds and flocks in a healthy and thriving condition.