AGRICULTURAL.

From the New York Farmer.

REMARKS ON THE HORN DISTEMPER.

Animals of the forest, guided by the principles of instinct, regulated by the dictates of nature, and uncontroled by man in their food, air, rest, and exercise, are seldom affected by disease, while domestic animals of all countries and climates, more directly under the controul and dominion of man, are subject to a variety. There are but few instances on record of prevailing diseases among the different tribes of wild animals, while every appropriate periodical informs us of diseases and their remedies of the whole class of those more immediately under the direction and government of man. Having lately had a fine young cow of the short horn Durham breed, afflicted with the disease called Horn Distemper, and she having thoroughly recovered, I thought it would not be improper to offer for publication in your valuable journal a few remarks on the disease, and my method of treatment. It is evident this distemper affects the internal substance of the horn, usually called the pith, insensibly wastes it, and eventually, if suffered to make its progress unmolested, leaves the horn entirely hollow. The pith is a porous, spongy bone, whose cells are covered with an unctuous matter and filled with numerous small vessels, is overspread with a thin membrane, appears firmly united to the head, and in a healthy animal completely fills the horn, which only serves as a sheath. In horn distempers this bone partly, at others wholly wasted, commencing at the extremity of the pith. The usual symptoms are a general dulness of the countenance, a tardiness in moving, a formation about the eyes of a yellow viscous matter, failure of appetite, a desire to lie down, a giddiness and frequent tossing of the head, often a stiffness of the limbs is observable, and in cows the milk fails. Let the other symptoms be what they may, there is always a sudden wasting of the flesh The horn always loses its natural heat, and a degree of coldness is manifest to the hand by grasping it firmly. When in one horn, as is often the case, there will be a very sensible difference in the feeling If upon examination the horn is cold, we need not doubt the presence of the malady, yet without an acquaintance with some of the preceding signs, we might not be induced to examine the horn, or suspect the evil. As soon as the discovery is made, a hole with a tenpenny nail gimlet should be immediately bored underside the horn, three or four inches from the head. If the gimlet passes through the inside without resistance, it may be bored as low as is judged the hollowness extends; this, generally, if done in season, is all that is necessary These holes should, however, be kept open, that a free discharge may be encouraged, and a communication be kept up with the air. Bubbles are continually forming at the orifice, through which a thin fluid oozes after the horn is bored. This seems to indicate an internal fermentation. Putrid matter may be formed on the periosteum, and entering into the interstices of the bone, may dissolve the oily substance, and form a fluid so putrid and corrosive as to dissolve even the bone itself. From the sensible relief that an opening into the horn gives the beast, it is more than probable that the distress manifested arises from compression, occasioned by the expansion of the putrid and confined air within, rather than from an effect produced on the blood and juices. In aggravated cases the inside of the horn should be thoroughly syringed two or three times a day with salt and water, soapsuds, pepper, and vinegar, or any simple cleansing material, (never apply spirits of turpentine, as the manner of some is.) If there appears to be much inflammation about the the head, a moderate bleeding in the neck would be beneficial. But when the distemper has communicated its effects to the brain so as to produce a high degree of inflammation, it is much to be doubted whether any mode of treatment would afford effectual relief.

Milch cows are more liable to attack than other descriptions of horn cattle. It is not common among oxen; I never knew a bull to have it, steers and heifers are thought to be exempt from it under three years of age. It cannot be considered as contagious. Neat cattle are subject to a disorder commonly called Tail Sickness, which is a wasting of the bony substance of the tail, and if not cut off above where the defect reaches, often proves fatal. It frequently accompanies the horn distemper.

From the Maine Farmer.

CROSSING VEGETABLES.

Vegetables, like animals, will sometimes breed back, or, in other words, some of the progeny will inherit some of the characteristics of their ancestors two or three generations back. This was exemplified by Mr. Knight, of England, when he began to *manufacture* new varieties of Peas, and although many of you may know the story, you will excuse us for telling it to those who do not.

When he first began his experiments on the crossing of vegetables, he selected out a dwarfish stunted kind of grey pea, that could not be much improved by good culture, or good soil. Previous to its opening its blossoms, he cut off all but half a dozen. These he opened carefully, and cut from the part called the stamens, leaving the pistil or thread-like column which rises from the seed-vessel, untouched. He then left them. They afterwards opened, like other blossoms, as if nothing had happened to them. He then took some of the pollen, or yellow dust, from the flowers of a tall luxuriant pea, and put it upon three of the flowers which had been robbed of their stamens. The half dozen flowers then put out their pods as usual, but the peas in the three that had not been dusted with the pollen perished, withering away, and produced nothing; while those that had received a sprinkling of pollen produced full grown peas. They were of a grey colour, and very much like those of the stock experimented upon. The next spring he planted these peas, and then the good effects of the crossing were exhibited. They grew up large; the peas were neither like the grey pea, nor the other, but intermediate—and of an excellent kind. Hence we see that if we have a plant or animal from crossings of two distinct breeds, and they do not exhibit or possess the qualities of the parents which we desire, their progeny may, and it is best to wait patiently until we see the results in more than one generation.

From the New York Farmer.

POTASH AS A MANURE.

I was pleased to see an enquiry suggested in a recent number of the New York Farmer respecting the use of Potash as a manure as practised on Long Island, but regret to find no answer furnished by those to whom the inquiry was directed. In the absence of better information on the subject, permit me to state what has been my brief experience in the use of this manure.

I had a lot of meadow land, containing about three acres, which had been reduced to poverty by severe cropping. On this piece of ground I made the following experiment. Having broken up the sward, and harrowed it repeatedly until quite mellow, I spread leached ashes over one acre, and potash dissolved in water over the other two acres; sowed millet seed, clover, and timothy, all mixed together, in the proportion of one part of each of the latter to five of the former, and one bushel of the mixture to an acre; harrowed all in together on or about the first of the sixth month.

The ashes cost fifteen dollars; the potash five dollars the acre; the expence and trouble of dressing with potash, about the same in proportion. And now it was a matter of no small interest to me, a novice at farming, to observe the result of an experiment, which when made, I supposed to be entirely original. The crop of millet was fine, and as nearly alike as could have been expected, if the land had all been covered with the same kind of manure. The clover also, all over the lot was luxuriant, and gave the strongest evidence to my mind, that potash is the principle agent in leached ashes, which causes fertility. I made trial of potash on a lot of four acres, which was considered the poorest on my farm, on which I sowed millet with the potash. I sowed at the same time four other acres without any manure, on ground considered much better than the last above mentioned.

I cut double the quantity of hay from that dressed with potash, and of a better quality. Thus far my little experience goes in favour of potash as a manure; but I much desire that some of thy subscribers, of larger experience and abler pens, would favour us with light on this interesting subject. T. D.

OYSTER SHELLS—are frequently burnt into lime, to lay upon land. They are better manure when ground without burning, owing to the remains of animal matter in them. A good lime compost is the following: Spread on any platform under cover six inches of mould, then three inches of well-burnt lime; slack it with water in which common salt has been dissolved, to the amount of 1 1-2 lbs. of salt to each bushel of lime; cover it with 6 inches more of mould. Before laying it on the land, turn and mix the compost heap, and lay 300 bushels of it on each acre. — *Dr. Hooper.*

From the Farmer's and Housekeeper's Manual.

CHEAP AND VALUABLE MANURE.—Raise a platform of earth, eight feet wide, one foot high, and of any length according to the quantity wanted on the head-land of a field; on the first stratum of earth spread a thin stratum of lime fresh from the kiln, dissolve or slake this with salt brine or sea water from the nose of a watering pot; add immediately another layer of earth, then lime and brine as before, carrying it to any convenient height. In a week it should be turned over, carefully broken and mixed, so that the mass may be thoroughly incorporated. This compost has been used in Ireland, has doubled the crops of potatoes and oats, &c. and is said to be far superior to stable dung.

SEASON FOR PLOUGHING.—Land which is composed in part of clay, or what is called a stiff soil, should be ploughed in the fall and and laid as light as possible, so as to expose it to the action of frost, which will pulverise and subdue it; and insects will then be destroyed by exposure to the rigours of winter. But arable land, which is sandy and porous, should lie and consolidate till spring.

TO KEEP APPLES FOR WINTER USE.—Put them in casks or bins, in layers well covered with dry sand, each layer being covered. This preserves them from the air, from moisture, from frost, it prevents their perishing by their own perspiration, their moisture being absorbed by the sand; at the same time it preserves the flavour of the apples, and prevents their wilting. Any kind of sand will answer, but it must be perfectly dry.