

and practice of each one is made known. By a comparison of the theories and practices thus brought forward, those which are most consistent and reasonable, can hardly fail of being perceived and adopted. An idea possessed by one, is made known to all—may be subjected to a practical test—if erroneous, it is shown to be so—if correct, its usefulness is general.

It seems to us that the District-School Libraries of this state, might form an excellent nucleus for Farmers' Clubs. A portion of the books in these libraries ought to be such as would assist the Farmer in the investigation of the principles, and the adoption of the best system of agriculture. The places where these books are kept, would be proper places for holding the meetings, and the contents of the books might frequently constitute topics for discussion. We recommend these suggestions to the attention of our readers.—*Albany Cultivator*.

The other day Mr. Stewart, Gardener at Stradsett Hall, exhibited to the Horticultural Society, some Cucumbers grown in equal parts of loam and charcoal without any manure. No stimulant could have given better fruit so far as health was concerned.

The author of the "Rural Economy of the Midland Counties" states that the fragments of charcoal left by the charcoal-burners have been found of great benefit to land. He reports them to be in his time in esteem as a manure for Turnips, and for finding grass-land.

The well known operation of paring and burning has been supposed to prove so beneficial in consequence of its removing insects and destroying the cohesiveness of stiff clays. The latter is no doubt, its effect in part; but we entertain no doubt that the charcoal formed from roots of grass and other plants is also of much importance in the operation. Try for example, brick-dust—which is burnt clay without charcoal—and the burnt clods of the fields, containing charcoal, against each other, and the distinction will soon be seen; yet, so far as mechanical alteration of the texture of the soil is of value, they are not in a very different state.

Then listen to what is stated by Mr. Rivers, in the last edition of his "Rose Amateur's Guide." "I have used," he says, "with much success (for Roses in pots) turf roasted on a sheet of iron placed in a temporary brickwork, under which a moderate fire has been kept; about one hour's roasting is sufficient. This chars the under side, and acts most beneficially" pp 262). We have reason to know that this is a most important fact in the management of Roses in pots; and let the reader only consider how entirely it confirms all that we have said on the subject.

When we last mentioned this matter we quoted the experiments of Mr. Rigg, against the assertions of other chemists, to prove that charcoal will form carbonic acid with the oxygen of the atmosphere, under ordinary circumstances. We have since met with a passage in De Candolle's "Physiology," which shows that we do not stand alone in our belief that charcoal does, even in the air, form gaseous combinations of some sort or other, and so furnishes food to plants, independently of the matters it may be able to condense within its pores. "Count Rumford," says M. De Candolle "has proved by direct experiment that charcoal, so long regarded as one of the most fixed of known substances, is capable of combining with oxygen, and forming with it carbonic acid, at a temperature

very far below that of which it burns perceptibly. This slow combination of charcoal with oxygen explains why those places in the woods where the charcoal burners have been at work, although at first sterile, become fertile, in proportion as the charcoal combines with the oxygen of the atmosphere to form carbonic acid, which dissolves in the surrounding water."

We may add that the quality of charcoal is much improved by steeping it in liquid manure: and that the lighter and more spongy it is, the better for the purposes of the cultivator.—*Gardeners' Chronicle*.

RECEIPTS FOR CURING HAMS.—We have been handed the following recipe for curing hams, by one of the most eminent practitioners in this city; the saleratus is at least new to us, and we therefore publish it, although it may not be a new ingredient in the recipe of others. In Cincinnati, where large quantities of hams are annually cured, pepper, allspice, cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, and other little ingredients are usually added; but to the recipe. Cover the bottom of the cask with coarse salt, lay on the hams, with the smooth or skin side down, sprinkle over fine salt, then another layer of hams, and so continue until the cask is full. This ought to be the large kind. A cask, holding 46 gallons, is small enough, and it would be better if it held 125 gallons. Make a brine in the following proportions:—6 gallons water, 9lbs. salt, 4lbs. brown sugar, 3 oz. saltpetre, 1 oz. saleratus.—Scald and scum, and when cold, pour the brine into the cask, until the hams are completely covered. The hams should remain in at least three months, and a little longer time would do no harm.

MAPLE SUGAR.—Every man who can conveniently attend to it, should make maple sugar. It can be done when the farmer has but little else to do, so the labor should not be reckoned high. In some sections, fuel is of but little consequence, and where it is high, strict economy should be practised, as to the mode of boiling. For catching sap, birch baskets answer a temporary purpose, and the cost is a mere trifle. Troughs made of light soft wood, cost but a few cents each, where timber is cheap; and they will last long, if housed, or turned upside down, in a pile, and sheltered from the sun and storms. But the most convenient and cheapest vessels in the end, are buckets with iron hoops.

ASHES FOR CORN.—Mr. Aaron Cass, of West Roxbury, planted about two acres of corn last spring, on very dry sandy land, and when it was suffering in a severe drought, he put about a pint of wood ashes around each hill; this soon made a great change; the corn revived and grew well, notwithstanding the drought continued. We examined this piece some time since, and it was one of the finest we have seen during the season. Mr. Cass considers ashes a profitable manure. The increased quantity of corn this season, will be only a part of the advantage, for the good effect of the ashes will continue long in the production of grass or other crops.

SMALL PRODUCTIVE FARM.—I raised, the past year, from 30 acres of land, 700 bushels of potatoes, 80 bushels of barley, 25 bushels of beets, 15 bushels of wheat, 10 bushels of beans, 4 tons of mowed oats, 6 tons of English hay, 10 tons of meadow hay, 40 bushels of corn, 20 bushels of carrots, 75 chickens and turkeys, and a great variety of garden sauce.

I have killed one hog, weighing 390 lbs, made 400 lbs. of butter, kept three cows, a pair of oxen,