

It is bad policy to permit stock to get poor at this season of the year. Keep it in good condition if possible. If allowed to run down now, stock will require half the summer on grass to recruit. Horses especially should be kept in good flesh and muscle, as their time for hard work will soon arrive.

A sheep case likely to be tried at the coming Middlesex Assizes, is reported by the *London Advertiser*. Mr. John Crooker, who resides in the locality of Thamesford, undertook to wash fifty of Mr. James Puddicumb's sheep some time since. The sheep at the first dipping were all right, but after the second twenty of them died, and it is alleged by the plaintiff that the defendant had unskilfully, ignorantly and carelessly mixed his composition, by putting into it too large a quantity of arsenic. The defendant states that he measured the arsenic with a coffee canister that would contain three-quarters of a pound or a pound, he did not know which. He also said that he "measured with his eye," and could not or would not tell the proportions of his composition. He further stated that the sheep were turned out before they were dry, and that the composition had dropped from them; and that they had died from eating the poisoned herbage.

## The Garden.

### HOT-BEDS.

No garden, however small, is complete without a device of some sort for starting plants earlier than they can be made grow in the open ground. Such a device is very servicable, both to the flower and vegetable garden. Every lover of flowers knows how to appreciate the early appearance of those lovely blooms which give cheerfulness to the spring and beauty to the summer. Any plan which will expedite the blossoming of flowers, adds greatly to the charm and value of the garden. Those who are unfortunately devoid of the tastes which enable people to relish floral beauty, are nevertheless able to understand the charm there is about a good supply of early vegetables. There are few indeed who do not relish the radishes and lettuce which help so much to make a plain breakfast palatable in the spring of the year, or the early beets, potatoes and cucumbers, whose presence on our dinner tables is proof positive that the winter is over and past. No doubt a very useful garden may be had without resorting to any expedients for obtaining extra early products, but the time, cost and trouble, required by such expedients, will be far more than repaid by the returns; in this climate especially, it is so late in the season before all danger of frost and inclement weather is past, that much valuable time is lost if the sowing of seed is deferred until it can be committed to out-door chances.

The hot-bed is the simplest and most common contrivance for obtaining the above mentioned results; It may be a very cheap, rude, primitive affair, or

nicely constructed, and somewhat expensive. Let no one be detained from making a hot-bed on account of the cost, since that may be reduced to a mere trifle; four pieces of rough unplained board nailed together at the corners, and covered with an old sash, (glazed of course,) will answer the purpose, but it is of course preferable to have something better, when practicable, as it is in most cases. A well-made frame which can be taken apart, and stowed away when not in use, and fitted up with sash so made, without intervening bars, that the rain will have free drip from pane to pane of glass, is what we editorially recommend to our readers. The hot-bed may have from one to four lights of sash according to the size desired. Having provided frame and sash lights, the next requisite will be the heating material; this is either stable manure, leaves, or tanbark in a state of fermentation. The generality of persons will find stable manure the most convenient material; a supply of this being at hand, the first thing to be done is, to throw it into a heap to "sweat," in other words to work off the first intense heat, which is often unmanageable. For doing this, it should be shaken up very loosely, all mottled portions being thoroughly separated. If the manure be dry, water must be applied from time to time so as to moisten the heap as evenly as possible; in a few days the material thus thrown together will become exceedingly hot; it must then be turned completely inside out, and carefully forked over; in three or four days it will be in a fit condition for building the bed. A site should be selected on a perfectly dry piece of ground, and in such a position that it will be exposed to the sun during the whole day. If sheltered from cold winds so much the better. The bed may either be built on the surface of the ground, or in an excavation a foot or eighteen inches in depth; some prefer the excavation as better protecting the sides of the bed, and so securing a more uniform heat, a matter of considerable importance in order to the greatest success. The ground plan of the bed should be as nearly level as possible, and the manure evenly built up the requisite size and height, which last may be about three feet. As to size the bed should project about a foot beyond the frame in every direction. The surface of the bed having been made as level as possible, it should be covered with good mellow soil to the depth of about five inches. Next seat on the frame, place the sash lights, and shut all up close until fermentation takes place and the soil becomes quite warm; a trial of the interior heat may be made by thrusting a pointed stick into the hot-bed; if on its withdrawal, it is found comfortably warm, the seed may be sown. It is not necessary to give a list of the flowers and vegetables which it is desirable to sow in a hot-bed, as the tastes and wants of the cultivator will decide the selection. Care must be taken to sow the seeds a proper depth.