

distribution of the manure throughout the soil, and in this respect we avoid an important defect of the ridge system; for, although by ploughing and cultivating across the ridges, when the land is prepared for the succeeding crop, we may then distribute much of the future evil, still it should be more generally known that the quality and weight of the crop itself are often prejudicially influenced by the manure being retained within such narrow limits.—*Journal of Royal Agricultural Society of England.*

Spirit of the Agricultural Press.

Pasturing Meadow and Clover Lands.

Irreparable injury is sometimes done to meadows and clover lands by hard stocking late in the fall or early in the spring. Sheep in particular, by eating close often seriously injure the crown of the clover plant, and thereby either kill or greatly injure its after growth. We join some pertinent remarks on this matter in the *Valley Farmer*:—

Stock should always be turned off from clover early in the fall as to allow the plants to have a growth of leaves sufficient to protect them from the action of the snow and frosts of winter. When eaten off to the ground, and the face becomes trod hard and compact, the water will be drawn up frequently three inches to the surface before spring.

Clover and meadow lands have already received close fall feeding, by all means stock should be kept off during February and March, so that the surface may become somewhat lightened by the rain and frosts, that the tender growth of spring may proceed without injury. Five hundred pounds of feed gleaned from a clover or timothy field in the winter or early spring will cut short the crop of the coming year five hundred pounds or more; so that it proves the most miserable economy to allow stock to press upon lands that are intended for hay or summer pasturage.

Corn-Cob Meal for Feeding.

Connecticut farmer gives the following as his experience on feeding corn-cob meal to his stock:—

I have fed corn-cob meal for many years, both to cattle and horses, as I suppose with decided advantage, and as I never had any animals sickened on this diet, I infer that there is nothing to be said about it. To working oxen or milch cows I have never exceeded four quarts per day, and fattening animals double the quantity. I have also had a bushel of roots daily. I pre-

fer a mixed feed, grinding oats with the corn for oxen, and rye for milch cows. It is very well known that corn meal alone is very heavy feed, and unless great caution is used, animals become sickened. Now the cobs ground up with the corn, even if they contain no nutriment, which is far from being proved, form an excellent divisor to separate the meal and create the stimulus of distention in the stomach, so essential to the perfect digestion of its contents. For this purpose we give cut straw with meal, not supposing when it is fully ripe it has much more nutriment in it than good saw-dust.

Fall of Drains.

At a Legislative Agricultural meeting held at the State House in Boston, the subject of under-draining being under discussion, Mr. Sheed, an Agricultural engineer, said he had drained a lot in Milton where there was only two inches of fall to a quarter of a mile, and the drain worked well. If there is a fall of three inches to the hundred feet in land, a tile drain with two inches diameter drains forty feet apart, four feet deep, would take off all the water, and he would guarantee it would work satisfactorily. All soils resting on a tenacious subsoil, could be advantageously drained.

[Eight inches fall in a mile might be found sufficient in drains constantly conveying a limited quantity of water, but for general purposes of under-ground draining such a fall could not be depended on. Three inches to the hundred feet would be found quite sufficient, but drains forty feet apart and four feet deep, in a wet, stiff soil, would in very few cases be found near enough to effect perfect or uniform drainage. However, in a country where capital for such purposes is but scanty, the best way is to place the drains at first wide apart, and if subsequently found inadequate, others can readily be put between.]

[Ed. C. A.]

Raising Early Calves.

A correspondent of the Connecticut *Homestead*, in a recent number of that journal makes the following remarks in reference to his experience in raising early calves:—

It is my practice to raise one or more winter calves every year, and the advantages are many. First, butter is always worth more in winter than in summer, so that new milch cows are more profitable at that time of year than in the warm season, and with good care and feed, they will give as much milk in winter as in summer. Second, if the farmer wishes to buy calves, they can be bought much lower in the fall and