

half a bushel of hemp seed is sown per acre. The seed should be heavy, shining and dark-coloured, and of the preceding crop; in three or four days the plants make their appearance, and soon after this they are carefully weeded and thinned out by hand. In very good soils, and where strong hemp is required, the plants are left six inches from each other. The strongest plants are pulled up in preference, as the male plants, which produce no seed, appear first. The name of male and female, as applied to the plants of hemp by botanists, are usually inverted by the hemp growers. They call that which produces the seed the male plant, and that which is barren the female. These names were no doubt used before the sexual system was well understood; but we shall call that the female which bears the seed. The male plants arrive first at maturity, at the time when the flower sheds the pollen which impregnates the female. They should then be gathered, as they would wither and become useless, if left till the seed was ripe on the female plants. This taking out the male plants does good to those which remain; and in order that this may be done without breaking the females, the seed should be sown in narrow beds with paths between them. From this circumstance arises a practice of sowing hemp in a border all round a garden or potato-ground, or in rows with potatoes between them.

When the female hemp is fit to be pulled, the plants are drawn out of the ground with the roots and laid in small bundles about six inches in diameter. These are placed against each other in a circle, the heads forming the apex of the cone. If the weather should be very rainy while they are in that state, the heads are sometimes protected from the rain by a covering of straw; but this is not a common practice. If the weather is fine, the whole is sufficiently dry in a week or ten days; the seed is then taken off by means similar to those employed for flax, and the hemp is steeped.

The female hemp requires the least time for steeping; a week or ten days in the water is sufficient to make the fibres separate from the wood. If a much longer time is required, it is a proof that the hemp was either pulled too soon, or allowed to stand too long.

Rye or wheat is usually sown on the land which has borne a crop of hemp. Sometimes turnip-seed is sown amongst the hemp, when the male plants are pulled up; but this is scarcely worth while, and the return seldom repays the trouble. Before the whole crop is pulled, if that takes place in September

or October, the rye or wheat is thrown amongst it; the peeling of the stems covers this seed, and no other tillage is required. A slight application of the liquid manure soon makes the corn spring up; this saves ploughing and harrowing.

The produce of an acre of hemp in Flanders is about 350 lbs. of hemp, and from thirty to thirty-five bushels of seed, if the soil is good and well cultivated. It is not usual to sow hemp repeatedly in the same ground, as is done in many other countries, and also in parts of England, where a hemp land is a name given to some enclosure near the farm house, which from time immemorial is the only spot where hemp is ever sown. The Flemish farmers have no hemp lands; and they seldom sow this crop again in the same spot in less than eight or ten years. Hemp requires so much care and manure, that it is not a favorite crop; it clears the land from weeds, and is a good preparation for wheat; but flax is upon the whole more profitable, and therefore preferred.

When the hemp has been steeped and dried, the fibres are separated from the wood by hand, or by a mill which crushes the woody part. This mill consists of a stone of a conical shape, revolving on another circular stone laid horizontally, as in a cider mill; the wood is thus broken and afterwards easily separated from the fibre by beating and combing; but it is more commonly separated by hand; and the hemp thus treated is preferred. It is an easy employment for old people and children, by the winter's fire, or on a summer evening; but it is too tedious to answer on a large scale.

COL. MORRIS'S STOCK.

One of the advantages of a good agricultural paper is, the information it gives the farmer in regard to stock. If the reader of such a paper can find in its columns reliable accounts of the most carefully selected and best managed herds of cattle, &c., and the names and reputations of those breeders who keep animals for sale, he may save himself much trouble, anxiety, and expense. In dealing with pretenders and sharpers, too many of whom are now "abroad," you can never be sure that you get what you have bargained for. Our advice is, to place more dependence upon the skill and character of the breeder than upon your eyes. These will often deceive you, especially in the matter of improved stock. It is better to be sure of the pedigree than to rely on a fine form.

As we have opportunity we shall extend our ac-