



The field.

Spent Tan-bark.

PILES of this refuse material may be had at the tanneries, and it is often a charity to team it away. The adjacent farmer may turn it to good account. When dry it is one of the best absorbents of liquid manure, and it is an excellent help in the formation of the compost heap. It makes a good application for heavy soils, without admixture with other manures, being useful not only by means of the fluid it has absorbed in the stables, but by acting during the rotting process as a divider and lightener of stiff land. A good way of preparing it for use is as follows: have a rough shed with a somewhat flat roof, near the horse and cow stables—employ leisure opportunities during the summer in hauling an occasional load of tan-bark—throw it on the top of the shed where it will speedily dry under the action of the sun and wind—have a board or two of the roof moveable, and when the bark is sufficiently dry, let it fall into the shed. In this way a quantity may be gradually collected for winter bedding. When thoroughly saturated with the fluids of the stable, it can either be mixed with the other material of the manure heap, or thrown into a separate pile for application to the land.

Spent tan-bark thoroughly dried may be used in small quantities as fuel, along with coal or wood, in furnaces and close stoves.

Fining Manure.

A very successful English gardener lays a good deal of stress upon what he calls "fining" manure, and attributes much of his success to this process. By "fining" he means breaking up the lumps, tearing in pieces the long, strawy parts, and bringing all into such a fine state that it can be thoroughly mixed with the particles of the soil. Having broken it up he mixes it with ashes, leaves, saw-dust, tan-bark, and all the refuse of his garden, laying it up in thin layers. When it has become partly decomposed, he overhauls it, turning it over with the shovel, and making it one homogeneous mass. After the heap has lain a few months, it gets another working, and then being thoroughly "fined" it is ready for use anywhere. Farmers may learn

a lesson from this example. It is plain that coarse lumpy manure cannot benefit land as much as that which is broken up and equally diffused through it: Liquid manure and guano act efficaciously, for this, among other reasons, that they are minutely divided among the particles of the soil.



Turnip Culture.

THE time for putting in this valuable crop is just upon us, the middle and latter end of June being the proper season for Swedes, and July for the White varieties. We would say to every one of our farming readers, be sure to sow a patch of turnips this year—the larger the better, provided you only attend to it properly. The hurry of spring work is over, and, with a little extra industry, you may provide an article for next winter's foddering, the effect of which, in eking out your hay, and keeping your stock in condition, will astonish you, if you have had no experience as yet in its use, which is the case with thousands of farmers in Canada. If the animals now grazing in your fields could speak in reference to the matter, their unanimous and earnest request would be for a juicy addition to their dry winter's meals, such as the crop now recommended so well furnishes.

A small turnip patch is better than none. Where is the farmer, however hurried or short-handed he may be, or however unsuitable his land, who cannot, if he will, prepare and sow at least an acre of turnips? Should he obtain but 600 bushels—which is about an average crop—he will have more than enough to give three milch cows, or other cattle, a bushel per day from the 1st of December to the last of May. The turnip crop is by no means a difficult crop to grow. An abundant yield may be had from new land, dragged before sowing, and harrowed after sowing, with a light brush harrow. Older land re-

quires more thorough preparation. It should be ploughed twice, thoroughly cultivated, well manured with rotten dung or compost, bone-dust, leached ashes, &c., and finally prepared for the seed, either by throwing up drills, or well levelling, as the one or the other mode of cultivation is preferred. The drill method is most commonly practiced, and it is usual to apply manure in the drills, as well as broadcast. If there be only manure enough for one application, it will tell more effectually upon the turnip crop, by putting it in the drills. No one should grudge the trouble of preparation or the expenditure of manure in turnip-raising. They will bring an ample return in the root-crop of the present season, but in addition to that, the land is left in such prime order, that the next year's grain crop is sure, other things being favourable, to be an extra good one.

Next to care in putting in the seed, a timely thinning and hoeing of the young plants is important. If they are suffered to go too long and become crowded, they acquire a spindling, weakly growth, which does the crop irreparable injury. The quickest way of thinning them is with a hoe about eight inches broad. A little practice will enable the hoer to strike with such precision as to render stooping and fingering the plants quite unnecessary. Once well thinned and hoed, the rapidity of their growth renders further attention unnecessary. Their broad leaves soon shade the ground, smothering down all weeds, and keeping the soil in that moist condition which is so favourable to rapid growth. Pulling and housing turnips may be delayed until all the other crops are secured, as they are hardy enough not to suffer from the first slight frosts. In taking the tops off turnips, it is important to avoid cutting too deeply into the bulb. The accompanying cut

will show how the operation ought to be performed. There are several kinds of turnips, the chief of which are the Swedes or ruta-bagas, and the common White turnip. The former is the hardiest of all the turnip family, and best suited to the Canadian climate. It keeps well, requiring only a temperature just above the freezing point. Should the Swedes fail, from attack by the fly or any other cause, the common White can be sown, which, though it will not keep well through the winter, answers an excellent purpose for late fall or early winter feeding.

If every rod of ground be occupied by other crops, it is possible still to have turnips. The stubble, or six weeks turnip, as its name implies, may be sown on a barley or wheat stubble. It resembles the common White Globe, but will not yield more than half as much as the earlier sown White kind. This, too, must be consumed before winter fairly sets in.

