

the spade, only slightly moved with a steel fork, afterwards spread a good dressing of rotten manure all over the surface of the beds. All kinds of fruit trees and bushes that were planted in autumn should now be looked over, and where the ground has become at all loose round them have it made firm right up to the stems; this is most important with newly-planted fruit trees. They should also be mulched with half-rotten manure, which will keep the roots moist in summer, and save much watering.

J. SMITH.

*Mentmore, Bucks, February 25th.*

We have received from the Secretary of the Bath and West of England Society an advance proof of the report of the Society's *mangel experiments* conducted in 1890. The object of the experiments was to ascertain what manures can be most advantageously used for the production of a good crop of mangels having regard also to their effect upon a succeeding crop to show the effects of corn. There were twenty-five field experiments conducted in nine counties, the plots being arranged thus:—Artificial manures with dung, artificial manures without dung, dung only, and no manure. Mr. J. E. KNOLLYS, chairman of the Experimental Committee, thus summarises the results:—

1. That both in larger produce as well as in smaller cost the plots without dung have the advantage.
2. That the addition of mineral superphosphate alone to a full quantity of dung has given a slight advantage (A and E).
3. That half the quantity of dung with 2 cwt. nitrate of soda added has given a better result (B C D) than a full dressing of dung.
4. That the further addition of mineral superphosphate in B and of salt in D has given in each case an increase of crop, the salt rather the larger (C and B, C and D).
5. That the addition of mineral superphosphate and salt to 1 cwt. of nitrate of soda in H, and of mineral superphosphate (without the salt, in L, have each produced heavier crops than 4 cwt. nitrate of soda alone in G.
6. That 3 cwt. sulphate of ammonia in K has not done so well as 4 cwt. nitrate of soda in E, each having the same addition of mineral superphosphate.
7. That 4 cwt. of nitrate of soda in H has produced 2 tons more mangels than half the quantity in I, but that the increase obtained from 4 cwt. appears to be less in proportion than that obtained from 2 cwt.

Mr KNOLLYS adds that the experiments point very forcibly—so far as the mangel crop alone concerned—to the advantage which artificial manures in proper combinations, either by themselves or with small quantities of dung, have over large and heavy dressings of dung. But, he remarks, that "we have yet to see what will be the effect upon the succeeding crop of corn, and until we learn this our experiment is incomplete." It is further recalled that the season was very exceptional, and that a different season may tell a different tale. Under these circumstances it has been decided to repeat the experiments this year. The report will appear in the *Journal of the Bath and West of England Society*, which will be published soon.—*Ag. Gazette.*

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