

earth or peat; but on no account use for this purpose lime or ashes.

Thus made, the compound will be a valuable manure, which may be kept for a long time without losing its strength; but it should be protected from exposure to wet.

A good manure may be made from bones without forming a superphosphate, by dissolving the animal matter of the bone by means of alkaline leys, and thus freeing the bone earth, which is then in excessively fine particles fit to be dissolved in the waters in the soil. Many recipes have been given for this. Dr. Nichols, in his *Boston Journal of Chemistry*, February, 1869, gives the following, which he recommends: Take a barrel of fine ground bone and a barrel of good wood ashes, mix well together and add three pailsful of water; mix the whole intimately, stirring daily; the mass will be fit for use in a week.

Hop Picking and Curing.

To the Editor.

SIR,—As it may interest some of your numerous readers, I take the liberty to give you a rough sketch of the process, as seen by myself, and learnt from the managers of the large yards in Waterloo, which I have visited.

The picking is done by women and children, who are waited on by men called tenders, who cut the vines, pull the poles, and bring them to the boxes, where they are soon stripped by the pickers, after which the poles are stacked up for the next year's use. The pickers are paid by the box, and can earn 50 cents to 75 cents a day, according to the nimbleness of their fingers.

The boxes are emptied from the boxes into large sacks, and carried to the dry-house, where they are immediately placed on the slat floors of the kiln, which are heated by large stoves, with long strong pipes running across the room under the slat floors. The hops are dry in about sixteen or twenty hours, and are then shoved off into the store-rooms, where they lie until cool. When they are ready for the press, they are pressed into tidy bales by strong lever presses. The sacking is first laid on the bottom of the press, then strong, wide sheets of paper, the press is then set up and trodden full, when another piece of sacking and paper are placed on the top, and the follower put on and pressed down. The sacking is sown together after the sides of the press are taken down, the follower and standards holding it secure and giving room for sowing.

This putting paper inside of the sacking is a new improvement, claimed to answer the purpose of preventing evaporation and the injurious effects of light. As paper is a non-conductor, and air-tight, it is thought to answer admirably.

The crop in Western Ontario is estimated at about three-quarters that of last year, and of about the same quality.

C. G. B.

Waterloo, Aug. 30, 1870.

Saving Corn Fodder.

The deficiency in the hay crop this year will be considerable in some places, and it would be well for farmers who have crops of corn to take a little extra pains in saving the stalks in such a way that they will keep over winter, and yet retain sufficient of the saccharine juices to be palatable as food for stock.

To do this the corn should be cut as soon as the ears are well filled and glazed, and, if possible, before frosts come. Then set up in shocks for a week or two, and husk out the corn. That done, the stalks should at once go under cover, and be stowed away standing up, if possible, or in such a manner as will prevent them from getting too compactly together, and becoming mouldy from heating. Corn stalks cut up and steamed, or mixed with cut hay and a little meal, and wetted slightly, at the time of feeding out, are much preferable as food for cattle to straw or poor hay. Corn sown in drills for fodder, and cut and cured before frost comes, is most excellent and nutritious food for milch cows.

Remedy for the Prevention of the Turnip Fly.

The following top-dressing for preventing the ravages of the turnip fly was stated by the late Mr. Fisher Hobbs to have been used by his steward for many years with perfect success.

One bushel of white gas ashes, fresh from the gas-house, one bushel of fresh lime from the kiln, six pounds of sulphur, and ten pounds of soot, well mixed together, and got to as fine a powder as possible, so that it may adhere to the young plant.

The above quantity is sufficient for two acres when drilled at twenty-seven inches. It should be applied very early in the morning, when the dew is on the leaf, a broadcast sowing-machine being the most expeditious mode of distributing it, or it may be sprinkled with the hand carefully over the rows. If the fly continues troublesome, the application should be repeated, but Mr. Fisher Hobbs stated it had never failed where applied at night to Swedes, turnips or rape.—*Gardener's Magazine*.

TREES CONDUCTIVE TO HEALTH.—By absorbing or emitting electricity, according as it is deficient or in excess, they (the trees) maintain a natural electrical state of the atmosphere around them, and we all know how intimately atmospheric electricity is connected with disease. Without trees there is always a deficiency of electricity, consequently a deficiency of ozone, and the air is not in its naturally healthy state. They act in like manner as regards heat, cooling the atmosphere at eventide during the hot summer months by rapid radiation into space, while streets and squares without trees remain hot and close.—*Scientific Review*.

Cheap Farm Gate.

A correspondent in the *Journal of Agriculture* gives the following directions for making a good gate at small cost and trouble:—

Take six pieces of stuff ten feet long, four inches wide, and one inch thick; lay these down on a level piece on the ground, leaving your first bottom space two and three quarter inches wide, the next three inches, the next three and a half inches, the next five and a half inches, and the next, or top space, nine and a half inches wide; then take the same kind of material and nail across the ends with annealed nails; then nail on a cross brace from the upper to the lower corner, also with annealed nails, so that it will fit neatly inside of your end pieces. Now turn your gate over, and nail similar upright pieces across the ends, even with the ones on the opposite side, and one upright piece midway between the ends. This latter is far preferable to putting on a diagonal brace on that side. In such a gate there is no morticing, and, for the weight of it, it is far stronger than any morticed gate that can be made.

Annealed nails, to my mind, are better than wrought nails. If you use such stuff, common eightpenny nails are heavy enough, as they are two and a half inches long, and half an inch is enough to clench. The best way to anneal them is to put them in the stove while the folks are getting supper, cover them up in the hot ashes for the night and take them out next morning. This slow cooling serves to toughen them. To get the proper anneal, you should heat them to a white heat, but not enough to blister the iron. I find it better to drive the nails clear through, and clench them after they are driven, as in this way a neater clench is made.

Such gates as I have described look well, and are very quickly made. A good hand will put up five of them in a day—make them I mean, not hang them also. In hanging your gate, place the opening end at least one and a quarter inches above what you wish it to be, as any large gate, no matter on what kind of a hinge, will spring at least that much.

Indian corn, owing to the warm weather of June and July, has reached an extraordinary growth in the county of Lennox, and the present season is likely to be the best for that article that has been seen in many years in that section. The *Napanee Standard* says Mr. Jacob Schryver, of North Fredericksburgh, has shown a stalk which measures 10 feet in height, and says a large field from which it was taken will average about the same. Mr. D. Jennings, of Camden, also brought in some stalks measuring 9 feet 9 inches.