3rd. By effecting important chemical changes, necessary to enrich the earth with plant food. Its abundance of foliage enables Clover to gather from the atmosphere immense stores of grass that give life to the plants, which its far-reaching roots send deep down into the earth. Thus a clover field becomes, as it were a great reservoir for plant food. And clover itself becomes a great commissary, collecting food from the earth and the air for whatever crop that may follow.

4th. By preventing washing. The Clover mulch breaks the force of the hard beating rains while the roots hold the soil in a mat as it were, thus preventing it from washing.

5th. As a green manure. Perhaps no crop is so valuable for turning under in a green state, as Clover. In addition to the immense amount of rich vegetable matter in its abundant roots, the plant itself is extremely rich in all the materials necessary to the healthful growth of succeeding crops. —*Dixie Farmer.*

PRESERVATION OF FENCE-POSTS.

Any kind of timber, when employed for fence-posts, will be more than twice as durable if allowed to become thoroughly seasond before being set in the ground The durability of seasoned posts may be promoted, so as to make them last an age, by the application of a heavy coat of coal-tar to the portion buried in the earth, and a few inches above the surface of the ground. Some farmers set the ground-end in hot tar, and let it boil fifteen minutes When cool, cover with coal-tar, thickened with ground slate or ground brick. The boiling stiffens the albumen and causes the pores to absorb tar. The coating prevents the action of moisture.

But this treatment of green posts would do very little good, and, perhaps mischief. A boiling in lime-water is also beneficial. Timber that is first water-logged and then well dried, lasts well; because the water soaks out the acid that that hastens the decay. Others contend that the better way is to season the post well before setting it; and when the post-hole is filled within ten inches of the ground, to apply a heavy coat of tar and fill up with earth.

As fence posts always decay first near the surface of the ground, it is only necessary to protect the post a few inches above the surface, and about a foot below it. The timber begins to decay, usually, on the surface of the posts. Therefore. if the surface can be protected by some antiseptic material, posts will last a lifetime. Many kinds of timber will not last five years if set in the ground while green.—*Manufacture and Builder.*

ADVANTAGES OF UNDERDRAINING.

Waring, in his "Elements of Agriculture," states that the advantage of underdraining are many and important and enumerates the following:

1. It entirely prevents drought.

2. It furnishes an increased supply of atmospheric fertilizers.

3. It warms the lower portions of the soil.

4. It hastens the decomposition of roots and other organic matter.

5. It accelerates the disintegration of the mineral matters of the soil.

6. It causes a more even distribution of nutritious matters among those parts of soil traversed by roots.

7. It improves the mechanical texture of the soil,

8. It causes the poisonous excrementitious matter of plants to be carried out of the reach of their roots.

9 It prevents grasses from running out.

10. It enables us to deepen the surface soil.

By removing excess of water—

11. It renders the soil earlier in the spring.

12. It prevents the throwing out of grain in winter.

13. It allows us to work sooner after rains.

14. It keeps off the effects of cold weather longer in the fall.

15. It prevents the formation of acetic and other organic acids which induce the growth of sorrel and similar weeds.

SPLITTING RAILS.

Almost every farmer can split rails, but there is considerable science in the work after all. One man will rive them out with apparent ease, while another will tug away and exhaust his strength in a few hours. The reason of this difference is owing to the weight and shape of tools, and the knowledge of their use. One man makes a constant outlay of strength, while another will apply it only at an essential point, and that is when the beetle is descending and near the wedge.

An experienced rail-splitter tells us that the best maul is made of a knot, and should be of medium weight, not so heavy but that a man can swing it with ease One iron wedge, quite slim, should be kept and used for starting the split; it is not apt to rebound, and if it should, it may be easily prevented by making a few checks with an axe near together, and starting the wedge between them, or by rubbing the wedge in dirt.

It is hard enough to split rails at the best, and we believe it a sin for any man to attempt the work without proper perquisites, for he has no right to exhaust physical powers and ruin his constitution by using poor tools, when the best can be obtained at a trifling expense. Great advantage is gained, when making rails, by opening large logs with a charge of powder.—*Ohio Farmer.*

Boys on the Farm—The author of Work and Play pays the following tribute to farmers' boys:—Say what you will about the general uselessness of boys, it is my impression that a farm without a boy would very soon come to grief. He is the factotum, always in demand, always expected to do the thousand indispensable things that nobody else will do. Upon him fall all the odds and ends, the most difficult things. After everybody else is through he has to finish up. His work is like a woman's—perpetually waiting on others. Everybody knows how