

Manures too are much more highly prized than they formerly were, though much of their value is still lost by long and unnecessary exposure to the weather. Very few have, what every farmer ought to have, sheds to protect manure from the deteriorating effects of the sun and rain, or adopt any systematic measures for saving the liquid portions from running to waste. Not ten years ago a wealthy farmer in Sheffield, whose barn yard is near the bank of the river, had actually a drain cut across the road to convey all the liquids to the river; and as I have been told, had his straw thrown over the bank to get it out of his way. I had occasion to allude to this in lecturing on agriculture in that Parish some years ago, shortly after which I observed the drain was closed, nor have I since heard of straw having been thrown over the bank. In place of this wanton waste of fertilizers, many of our farmers now not only carefully preserve all they gather from the farm, but add largely to their stock by hauling black mud into their farm yards to absorb much that might otherwise be lost. Knowledge is increasing, and with it an improved practice in carrying out many of the details of the farm, but the extravagant price of farm labor is a very great impediment to any extensive plans of improvement.

In speaking of the past and present condition of the agriculture of the country, it may not be amiss to say a few words about the influence of Agricultural Societies.

The Sunbury Agricultural Society has had much to contend with from the apathy of its friends and the selfishness which has characterised most of its proceedings; yet notwithstanding these difficulties it has unquestionably been a means of accomplishing much good. Under its fostering care, during the nine years of my connection with it, root crops for feeding cattle, I think I may safely say, have increased tenfold. Ten years ago turnips, mangold wurtzel, and carrots were scarcely grown beyond what would supply the requirements of the table. But it is far otherwise now. The emulation excited by the premium list has induced our farmers to test the productive qualities of the soil, and the result has increased the anticipations of the most sanguine. The judges appointed to examine root crops in the field, after having measured the ground and weighed the roots, reported one year 43 tons of mangold wurtzel to the acre, and 33 tons of white Belgian carrots. Upon another occasion 24 bushels of wheat and 52½ bushels of oats respectively, were reported to have been threshed and measured from a measured half acre of ground. And at the Exhibition of the Sunbury Agricultural Society, this autumn, a Jenny Lind potato was exhibited that weighed three pounds, a long red mangold wurtzel 14½ lbs., and a Swedish turnip 21½ lbs. These are results that never would have been attained without the stimulus of competition, excited by the premium list of the Agricultural Society. Our horses, neat cattle, sheep, and swine have also been much improved within the last few years by an admixture of imported blood, introduced by the Agricultural Society. We have a number of pure short horns now in the county, both males and females, which thrive well on our intervalles, and promise to produce a still greater improvement by judicious crossing with our native breed. There is now a large number of growing grade short horns which have a very promising appearance. The annual exhibition of Agricultural Societies, when properly managed, cannot fail to produce a beneficial influence. Not only are the best samples of stock and produce brought together, that each may see what others have produced, and be thus excited to emulate their success; but what is not less important, farmers themselves are brought together to discuss their various topics of interest. They talk