

We have received from Prof. Manly Miles, of Michigan Agricultural College, an interesting report of experiments in feeding stock and with manures, made by him last year, some account of which we hope to give our readers at the earliest opportunity.

The Farm.

HINTS ON TURNIP CULTURE.

We have received from an esteemed correspondent a valuable communication on the above subject, and regret our inability, owing to its great length, to publish it entire. We quote portions of it, however, which, for the sake of more easy reference, we place under appropriate headings:—

MANURING AND PREPARING THE SOIL.

As far as my experience goes, and what I have seen practiced by successful turnip growers, the manure should be thrown together a full month or six weeks before it goes to the field. The turnip seed likes well fermented manure, "hot and strong" immediately under it, and in as concentrated a form as possible, which will wonderfully accelerate the germination of the seed; and not miserable half fermented strawy stuff from which you can get plenty of fork root plants, but not turnips of quality or weight. I hold, sir, that according to the quality of food you furnish your plant with, will be the quality and value of your crop when arrived at maturity. Now, let me ask, can the strawy manure thrown out from animals during the last month or six weeks of the winter be properly decomposed, with lots of snow and ice amongst it, or the seeds of obnoxious weeds destroyed by being thrown together only a week or ten days? This, sir, is a theory that I do not comprehend. I had well nigh forgot to mention a most important feature in the preparation of the soil for the turnip crop, practiced but by few I well know in this country, which is, that when the fallow is thoroughly prepared for the seed, the soil should be well rolled down, that it may gather moisture for a week or ten days, or even longer before sowing. Two most important and desirable objects are secured by this process—first, the hastening of the germination of the seed, and secondly, in the operation of drawing out and closing in the ridges; an innumerable number of weed seeds, just budding into existence, are destroyed, which but for the operation above would be growing up ahead of your plants, and in a showery time would, probably, before your first hoeing, smother your plants and rob them of a portion of the nutriment they ought exclusively to have. I well know that this cannot always be effected for want of time, but I would advise every turnip grower to make an effort to accomplish it, knowing as I well do, from ex-

perience, the great success and advantage such an operation has in securing you a uniform plant throughout the ridges, instead of that irregularity which is too often the case in hot, dry weather, owing to their being more moisture in one part of the ridge than another; and can this be wondered at when the soil is often being worked and cleaned up to the very hour of sowing, during a week or ten days in a burning sun, depriving the soil of every particle of moisture which the seed requires, and in depositing the seed literally in a bed of dust; and then, what follows? Why, if no rain speedily comes, numberless blank places appear in your ridges, and a very irregular crop of turnips is your reward! and here again the seedsman is often blamed. But if a good shower follows the sowing in two or three days, all goes well. Turnip growers, one and all, give heed to this important suggestion, and you will be greatly the gainers.

DISTANCE BETWEEN THE ROWS.

The ridges for the turnips should be seven or eight-and-twenty inches apart, and the plants left from nine to ten inches apart in the ridge, unless the turnip grown has a very rank top; I would then give two or three inches more between the ridges. I am perfectly satisfied from thirty-five years' experience in turnip growing, and also from that of others, that the above distances will yield the heaviest weight per acre, and the result of this match proves the assertion to be true. And I have seen the same results from other matches many years ago, as well as of late years. In every instance where more room was given between the turnips, though larger in size, less weight per acre was obtained.

QUANTITY OF SEED PER ACRE.

A greater mistake cannot be made than by sowing a small quantity of seed, if you wish for a heavy and remunerative crop for your trouble and expense. Never grudge a pound or two of seed per acre; what is the trifling sum of forty or fifty cents extra per acre to secure you a heavy and satisfactory crop? Never sow less than two and a half to three pounds of seed per acre, and if all other operations are carried out as they ought to be, such as a clean, well pulverized soil, heavily manured with well fermented dung, assisted with auxiliaries such as bone dust, superphosphate of lime, guano, or leached ashes, which everyone may have at command, if you are short of a heavy supply of dung, and your manure covered when hot in the ridges, whilst your soil is moist, I will guarantee that your reward shall be from seven hundred to a thousand bushels per acre, if the seed you sow is good and the season a favourable one, for after all our best efforts disappointment will come if a bad season sets in, or you have some gormandizing insect to contend with. Besides, you should not lose sight of the fact that, for any auxiliary you may use with your manure, you will reap many times the cost in your two or three succeeding crops, besides such auxiliaries giving an impetus that greatly facilitates the growth of your turnip plant out of the reach of the fly, independently