

crop, and exclaimed that he really thought I had drained my land so much that I should have no crop at all. He was immediately after this completely wedded to the system, and from that day has been vigorously engaged in introducing thorough draining and subsoiling all over his estate; and he is now having a great deal of poor soil, on a very rich and productive estate, treated in the same way. Taking the average of that gentleman's estate, I should say that he now produces double the quantity of corn that he used to obtain. He now grows potatoes where he could not grow them before, and on the old clay he produces regular and large crops of turnips.

A gentleman wished to know the name of the individual referred to.

Mr. Smith—Mr. Stirling, of Keale.

Another inquiry was made as to whether there was any land where subsoil-ploughing would be successful without thorough draining.

Mr. Smith—I am much obliged for that hint. Many persons have thought that ploughing the subsoil might do without thorough draining, but there are few instances indeed in which that application of the plough will not be hurtful instead of being beneficial. If you have a retentive bottom which will not allow the moisture to pass away, it must remain till absorbed by the atmosphere; therefore the greater the chambers for receiving rain, so much the longer will the land be kept in a wet state. The practice which now prevails in the English clay districts of ploughing with a shallow harrow, has arisen from the experience of ages, which has taught them that on such soils you cannot cultivate wheat if you plough a deep furrow, because you make just so much the larger chambers to receive water. Even in open soils I would not recommend the application of the subsoil plough till the thorough draining had been executed. * * *

A question has been handed to me, as follows:—“What effect have thorough draining and subsoil ploughing on the habit of throwing out the wheat plant by frost?”—There is no difficulty in answering this; because it is well known to be owing to the moisture that the wheat plant is thrown out, and whatever removes the moisture, will have the favourable tendency required. I have known many places where almost every winter the greater part of the plants were thrown out. Now, the result of thorough draining and subsoil ploughing is that they retain the plant perfectly well, and have very abundant crops.”

The remainder of the Lecture of Mr. Smith is highly interesting, and we may give it at another time. The experience of this gentleman ought to be sufficient to convince every one of the vast benefit that is to be derived from thorough draining. Indeed, arable culture cannot be profitable without thorough draining.

FIELD MUSHROOMS.—(From a Correspondent of *The Times*).—Persons at this season of the year cannot be too cautious in the choice of mushrooms. Sunday afternoon a family named Harper, residing in Berwick Street, Soho, nearly lost their lives by eating too freely of some stewed mushrooms, which in the course of the morning had been purchased of a country-looking lad, who was hawking them in a basket about the streets for sale. Shortly after eating the same, they were seized with violent retching, attended with choleric pains in the stomach, which, had not medical assistance been

promptly produced, would most probably have proved fatal. Besides several poisonous “fungi,” there is a variety of the *tubai*, which, although an innocuous catsup may be made from them, yet are dangerous to be eaten, being highly indigestible, and apt to swell in the stomach, producing very painful and dangerous consequences. The best way to test the quality of mushrooms is to introduce a silver spoon, or a new shilling, or sixpence, or an onion, into a vessel into which mushrooms are seething; if, on taking either of them out, they assume a dark discoloured appearance, the circumstance denotes the presence of poison existing among them; if, on the other hand, the metal or onion on being withdrawn from the liquor wears its natural appearance, the fruit may be regarded as being genuine and of the right sort.

AUTUMNAL LEAVES.

We all know that it is a universal practice among gardeners, to sweep up and carry away the dead leaves of autumn, which at this season are strewn the ground in all directions. The neatness which must be maintained in a garden seems to render this labour necessary, and the practice of ages sanctions it. In the eyes of nine-tenths of the world, the man who permitted the dead leaves to accumulate among his shrubs would be set down as a sloven; and yet that man would be a better gardener than he who is eternally exercising the broom and the rake, and treating his garden as a housemaid treats her chambers. When nature causes the tree to shed its leaves, it is not merely because they are dead and useless to the tree, but because they are required for a further purpose—that of restoring to the soil the principal portion of what had been abstracted from it during the season of growth, and thus rendering the soil able to maintain the vegetation of a succeeding year. Every particle that is found in a dead leaf is capable, when decayed, of entering into new combinations, and of again rising into a tree for the purpose of contributing to the production of more leaves and flowers and fruit. If the dead leaves, which nature employs, are removed, the soil will doubtless, upon the return of spring, furnish more organizable matter without their assistance; because its fertility is difficult to exhaust, and many years must elapse before it is reduced to sterility. But the less we rob the soil of the perishing members of vegetation, which furnish the means of annually renewing its fertility, the more will our trees and bushes thrive; for the dead leaves of autumn are the organic elements out of which the leaves of summer are to be restored in the mysterious laboratory of vegetation. They contain the carbon of humus, and the alkaline substances essential to the support of growing plants; and although such substances can be obtained from the soil, even if leaves are abstracted, yet they can never be so well obtained as through the decay of those organs. The dead leaves of autumn then should not be removed from the soil on which they fall. Neatness, no doubt, must be observed; and thus, we think, will be sufficiently consulted if leaves are swept from walks and lawns, where they do no good, and cast upon the borders in heaps, where they will lie and decay till the time for digging has arrived, when they can be spread upon the earth like so much manure. Or, when planting is going forward, a quantity cast into the hole in which the young trees are to be stationed, and mixed with the soil, will be found to have a beneficial effect.—*Selected.*

WEEPING.

Young women are full of tears. They will weep as bitterly for the loss of a new dress as the loss of an old lover. They will weep for any thing or for nothing. They will scold you to death for accidentally tearing a new gown, and weep for spite that they cannot be revenged on you. They will play the coquette in your presence, and weep when you are absent. They will weep because they cannot go to a ball or a tea-party, or because their parents will not permit them to run-away with a blackguard; and they will weep because they cannot have every thing their own way.

Married women weep to conquer. Tears are the most potent arms of matrimonial warfare. If a gruff husband has abused his wife, she weeps, and he repents and promises better behaviour. How many men have gone to bed in wrath, and rise in the morning subdued with tears and a curtain lecture! Women weep to get at their husband's secrets, and they also weep when their own secrets have been revealed. They weep through pride, through vanity, through folly, through cunning, and through weakness. They will weep for a husband's misfortunes, while they scold him. A woman will weep over the dead body of her husband, while her vanity will ask her neighbour how she is fitted with her mourning. The ‘Widow of Ephesus bedewed the grave of her spouse with one eye, while she squinted love to a young soldier with the other.’

Drunkards are much given to weeping.—They will shed tears of bitter repentance this moment and sin the next. It is no uncommon thing to hear them cursing the effects of intemperance, while they are poisoning the cup of indulgence, and gasping to gulp down its contents.

The beggar and the tragedian weeps for a livelihood; they can coin tears and make them pass for the current money of the realm. The one weeps you into a charitable humour, and the other makes you forced to weep along with him. Sympathy bids us believe the one, and curiosity prompts us to support the other. We relieve the beggar when he prefers his claim, and we pay the tragedian before hand. The one weeps whether he will or not, but the other weeps only when he is well paid for it.

Poets are a weeping tribe. They are so-cial in their tears; they would have a whole world to weep along with them. Their sensibility is so exquisite, and their imagination so fantastic, that they make even the material world to sympathise with their sorrows.

The dew on the cheek of the lily is compared to tears on the cheek of a disconsolate maiden; when it glitters on the herbage at twilight, is called the tears of the evening, and when the sun rises and exhales the dew-drops from the flowers, it is said to wipe away the tears of the morning. Thus we have a weeping day and a weeping night.—We have weeping rocks, weeping willows, weeping waterfalls, weeping skies, and, if any signal calamity has befallen a great man, we have, to finish the climax—a weeping world!—*It.*

TO DESTROY RAG WORT.—This obnoxious weed may be effectually destroyed, by about three sheep to the acre being turned into fields where it chiefly grows, in the months of March, April, and May.