

FARM-YARD MANURE—ECONOMY IN MANAGEMENT.

Let our farmers, who own their soil, read the following, from the *London Farmer's Magazine*, and then decide if methods which would warrant tenant farmers in outlays for improvements, may not suggest what should be done by those who cultivate their own farms. Our back volumes give many articles on the management of farm-yard manures, and we hope the following will cause them to be read.—Ed.

Upon a careful investigation, we safely assert that 20 per cent. of ordinary farm-yard manure is wasted. An examination of ten farm-homesteads consecutively taken, has fully established this supposition. In six of these, the whole of the water from the roofs of the buildings fell directly into the yards. In two instances, the buildings were supplied partially with water-shoots, but these were in such imperfect order as to be nearly useless; and in neither of the other two cases, did they effectually answer the purpose for which they had been put up. Where the yards were of large dimensions, pools of liquid manure were found standing full to the edge, and which, after becoming filled, ran over into the nearest pond or ditch in a continuous stream of black liquid. No attempt had ever been made to carry it away in that state—no tanks having been formed for its reception.

In most instances, sufficient litter was at hand to render the yards tolerably comfortable for the cattle, although in rainy seasons this appeared almost impossible; so that the manure became subjected to continuous wastings for weeks together.

It is too much the fashion to look about for improvements, and forget that the first necessity for them exists at home. Year after year passes away regardless of consequences and thus manure sufficient for the annual supply of the farm is lost once in every five years, and in some instances in a far less space of time. It has ever been thus, and will probably continue to be so, unless tenants can be awakened to the importance of the question; and this, if left to themselves to correct, would probably even then never take place. Whenever this subject has been individually adverted to, the answer is invariably, "My landlord will not do anything." The same observation applies to the improvement of buildings, to drainage, and to every other point of recent introduction. Unless, perhaps, in the case of some few spirited individuals, things remain as they have done, and will probably continue to do so until the expiration of their occupation & lives,

The inquirer will probably ask, How can it be so? whose interest is it to set about this and why is it not carried out? Here, again we stumble; the law existing between landlord and tenant is the chief obstacle. It is manifestly the landlord's interest to supply his farm with suitable and properly-constructed buildings, and to see that they are constructed upon the best principle for insuring the economy of the manure. He takes care to restrict his tenant from selling off his farm any of the hay, straw, or roots, yearly, from the bad construction of the premises alone, as much manure becomes wasted as would be equivalent to what a moiety of the hay, under proper management would have produced.

If landlords could understand the depreciation that gradually takes place upon farms where little live stock is kept, they might soon be enabled to appreciate this question. Information must be acquired by observing the progressive improvement that follows upon good management, with suitable home-stalls for making the best of the manure. I have seen the produce doubled, and even trebled in seven years, under good management when due encouragement has been given; and we know of no investment profitable to a tenant, as that expended in the erection or improvement of properly constructed buildings. Covered farm-yards may by some be thought too expensive, though undoubtedly the best of all; and where other good buildings exist, they may judiciously combined with them at a moderate expense. It is stated that on this system, Mr. Cook, of Semer, Suffolk, has been most successful. But in absence of such plan, another may be adopted; sufficient open sheds might be erected and so placed to render great assistance under the general arrangement for carrying away the manure from the buildings, especially when thatch predominates as the covering. The cost will be found trifling comparatively with the benefit to be derived, and from our experi-