

That the temperature is of much more importance than is generally imagined, both with regard to quantity of food consumed and the benefit derived from it. To ascertain this fact, one lot of sheep was fed in warm (though well ventilated) sheds, and the rest were fed in the open air, exposed to the weather. The latter required more food in proportion as 30 to 22; and yet the former gave increased weight as 3 to 1. 3rd. It was tried whether lambs, or 2½-year-old sheep, gave the most increase of weight with similar food, and it was found that the increased weight was equal; though in the former case it was principally carcass weight, and in the latter it was wool. The writer concludes the very long and carefully-written accounts of his experiments with the following remarks:—"These experiments have shown most distinctly that sheep are exceedingly sensitive of any sudden change, either in food or in temperature; and that these circumstances, as well as any disturbance, are very disadvantageous to their feeding. If it is wished to secure the full benefit of their food, and the greatest profit of their keep, we must avoid exposure to the changes of the weather."—*Sprengel's Journal*.

We are not aware that the practice of feeding sheep in warm folds has ever been extensively acted upon in this country, though the subject has been frequently noticed. Throughout the whole of Prussia and Northern Germany, it is now almost the universal practice. It must, however, be remembered that the winters there are much longer, and the snow deeper, than in this country. It is also one of the maxims laid down by Liebig, in his "Animal Chemistry," that warmth is favourable to fattening; and it is at all times interesting to see the theories of science borne out in practice.—*Trans.*

It would certainly be very useful, if the specific properties of every kind of manure were carefully studied, so as to acquaint us with the quickness, the strength, and the duration of the action of each, in order that we might apply to every soil and every crop exactly, and without hesitation, that which is most suitable. What has hitherto retarded the acquisition of this knowledge is the universal custom of throwing, pell-mell, all the manure of the farm-yard into one receptacle, under the idea that this mixture of manures is the best for all kinds of soil. This practice is well enough in an alluvial soil, where all fields are of the same character; but in general practice, especially upon large farms, where more varied soils come under one cultivation, I would advise not to mix the manures, but to apply to each field that manure which is most suitable to it. In the present state of our knowledge, it seems advisable to recommend the application of the cattle manure to dry sandy, warm situations, and horse and sheep manure to cold, damp soils.—*Girardin des Fumiers*.

"FRENCH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.—Societies for the encouragement of agriculture are as much in vogue in France as in England. The French papers are full of reports of their annual meetings. The following passages, which we translate from a discourse pronounced at the meeting of the Agricultural Society of Cosne, in the Department of the Nièvre, by the President, M. Grangier de la Marinière, will show the spirit of these Societies:—"The wonders of English prosperity arise from the national character, and from the laborious habits of a people which has not, like us, a smiling climate to attract it to pleasure. In England every one works. Even the rich cultivate their own estates, and, far from being ashamed, glory in the occupation. From this cause the capital which is drawn from the soil returns to it, and the income of the land, wisely employed, goes to increase its fertility, not to encourage dangerous speculation at the Bourse, or to promote extravagance. All the improvements demanded by the agricultural interest have been conceded—as the removal of the duty on salt, the reduction of the rate of postages, the Scottish system of banking, by which agriculture escapes from the exactions of usury, the amelioration of different races of animals, instruction of every kind—all have been the object of the intelligent liberality of the ministers and of Parliament. At the present time, England—thanks to the unexampled development of its resources—is the agricultural nation *par excellence*. Down its rivers descend entire fleets of boats, loaded with grain and forage; its panting locomotives draw along, in their rapid trains, cattle and manure, the refuse of cities, the bones of Denmark, and the guano of Peru; everywhere we stumble over agricultural implements and machines—machines for thrashing and winnowing grain, for breaking and grinding bones, for watering the soil. Industry gives its hand to agriculture; and there is no operation, down to the steaming of potatoes, which does not give employment to the mechanical genius of that inventive people. And what is the result of this miraculous organization? It is this: in France, the average product of a hectare of land is 102 f.; in England, it is 214 f."

AGRICULTURAL ORDER OF MERIT.—The King of Prussia is about to create an agricultural order of merit. The decoration of the new order will bear on one side of it the effigy of the royal founder, and on the other the name of the party receiving it, with the legend "*Pour le mérite agricole*." The order is to be divided into three classes, and will be granted to cultivators who distinguish themselves in the exercise of their profession, as well as to all such as, by their inventions or writings on the subject applicable to it, serve the cause of agriculture. This institution seems to be regarded with much favour on the Continent, since it cannot well fail to contribute much to the development of the agricultural capabilities of a country in which it is adopted.—*Post*.