

May, at the same rate as is usual there for wheat and flax, namely, a *hectolitre* to a *mesure* of forty-two *ars* twenty *centaires*, more rather than less, in case any portion of the seed should fail to vegetate. This answers as near as may be to the proportion of two bushels to the acre.

It is a well-known fact that the most substantial manures, if they are not well rotted, produce a less active effect on the growth of hemp than the simplest fertilizers, which have been reduced to a state of extreme division. Hemp has short and slender roots; it springs up, grows, and comes to maturity within a very brief space of time; it therefore requires to find its nourishment readily prepared and easily absorbed. On this account all sorts of vegetable manures are found to answer so well. The Italian hemp-growers are fond of ploughing in green crops, such as field radishes, and lupines, as manure for their hemp, and thereby obtain both quantity and quality in their sample.

As all sorts of granivorous birds are passionately fond of hemp seed, it is indispensable to protect the new-sown fields, or to have them watched by children.

M. Bose relates a curious fact, which some would pronounce incredible. A Piedmontese farmer, M. Barberis, having a hemp-field seriously injured by hail, cut half of it to the level of the ground, and left the other half standing for the sake of comparison. The portion cut yielded a crop, not only more abundant than the other, but more than the same extent of ground would yield in seasons when no hail had fallen.

The hemp crop is not all gathered at once, the male plants being generally pulled a few weeks before the female or seed bearers. This usually occurs towards the middle of August. Their ripeness is known by their turning yellow at the top and white at the root, and by the general tendency of the whole plant to wither. Those who are over anxious about the quality of their fibre are apt to pull the male plants too green. In this state they produce a sample which is excellent for the manufacture of cloth; but if the hemp is to stand for seed, it is better to let the male plants remain till they have shed their dust, without the influence of which the seed will prove abortive, and be worthless both for the oil mill, and for birds' food. An acre of hemp on rich soil will produce something like three quarters of seed, a matter of some importance. If the crop be destined for spinning only, without any regard to the seed, the male and female plants are pulled together as "Maiden hemp," about thirteen or fourteen weeks after seed time; the plan has this advantage, that the crop comes off the ground sufficiently early in some climates for turnips to follow it, or better, that the farmer is allowed full leisure to make due preparation for a crop of wheat. The separation, however, of the male and female plants is not universally, though it is generally observed. It is sometimes neglected partly from the fear of the injury which the pullers would do to the remaining plants by crushing and breaking them when they stand thick, and also because the work has to be done at a busy time of year when there are plenty of other things to think of. When the hemp is pulled, it is bound in small bundles of such a size as may be grasped in both hands, and tied together with bands, at each end; they are then set leaning head to head against each other in the field to dry. In the Pas-de-Calais, the female or seed bearing plants when gathered after the males are disposed of, have their heads knotted into wisps to keep the seed from falling off (which it is