

at the cost of applying the liquid to a portion of the field, to raise a better crop on the other portion with solid manure at a like expense per acre. The proprietor, however, declined the challenge.

It might be supposed from what we have said that Mr. Duncan was an out-and-out opponent of the system. This is not the case, however, he entered the farm with the belief that its value was enhanced £1 per acre by the tanks, pumps, and piping, but his opinion now is, that these are not worth a fifth or sixth of that sum.

In reply to our enquiries as to whether the application did not permanently benefit the soil—whether the field from which the immense crops of Italian ray-grass had been raised did not develop in a corresponding degree, the other crops in rotation, Mr. Duncan stated that he thought more was due to the heavy manuring that Italian ray-grass demands than to the watering with liquid from the tanks.

We are not disposed to think so lightly of the value of liquid manure as Mr. Duncan appears to do. Undoubtedly great results have been obtained from its application, but it is equally certain that its value has been by some very much over-rated; and we are doubtful whether it can be shown to be profitable where great and costly works have to be erected for its collection and distribution. But where farms are so situated that the liquid can be distributed over the fields by gravitation, there can be no question as to the benefits to be derived from its use, and it would be gross waste in such circumstances to allow it to flow away into a ditch or a burr, to stimulate the weeds in the one, and poison the trouts in the other.—*Scottish Farmer.*

Pig Breeding and Feeding.

A few days since a lecture on the breeding and feeding of pigs was delivered to the members of the Worcestershire Agricultural Society, by Mr. Baldwin, of Bredon House, near Birmingham.

In opening the lecture, Mr. Baldwin said—In 1845 he entered on a farm at Kingsnorton. In 1846 he purchased two gilts and a boar, of the Tamworth breed, from his cousin, Mr. T. Baldwin, of Barnt-green, who was famed for his breeds of Tamworths; and although he (the lecturer) commenced breeding with three pigs in 1846, in 1851 he sold £1,000 worth of store and fat pigs within one year; and in the years 1852, 1853, 1854, and 1855 he sold £1,000 worth each year. The idea of feeding such numbers of pigs was first conceived by him at a county meeting at Worcester, in 1849, after free trade had come

into operation. The meeting was called to take into consideration the state of agriculture, and to petition government to pass another act for its protection. At that meeting he (Mr. Baldwin), believing it impossible to return to protection, moved an amendment to the effect that, as the tax upon malt was a burden upon the British farmer, it should be repealed. Mr. Curtler was the principal speaker in favour of protection, and, during his address, produced many samples of foreign produce at amazingly low prices. Among them was a good sample of Egyptian corn at 9s or 9s. 6d. per bag; Indian corn at the same price, and Dantzic wheat also very low. Mr. Curtler then exclaimed, "Gentlemen, or you grow them at these prices?" He (Mr. Baldwin) being a consistent free-trader, looked on the bright side of the question, and began to ask himself how he might turn the low price of corn to good account. It struck him that as he had a great many store pigs, he would feed them, instead of selling them at stores. He accordingly bought a large quantity of Indian corn at from 9s. to 9s. 6d. per bag, to begin with; and within two years and a quarter from that time he had sold £2,000 worth of pigs, and cleared, after paying all expenses, £500, besides making vast amount of manure, which he considered far better than guano, because more durable. During the greater part of these two years and a quarter, Indian corn, Egyptian barley and feeding barley ranged from 9s. to 12s. per bag of ten score, and he sold his fat pigs at from 7s. 6d. to 8s. 9d. per score. The plan which he adopted in breeding was to put sows to the boar in November, and pick the breeders principally from the earliest pigs. When he had got his stock up to about 100 breeding sows, in picking the breeders, he used to pick them several times over, as frequently happened that those which looked the prettiest and best when young altered considerably when they got three, four, or five months old. The rule was to pick the growing pigs, and those that were straight and thick through the shoulder and head, and experience had convinced him that this method of choosing was a correct one. There need be no greater proof of that than the number of medals and prizes he had obtained. He always kept to the Tamworth breed, generally purchasing the boars, but breeding the sows. If he found the pigs getting fine, he purchased a good strong boar, and the animal exhibited tendencies in the same way he picked a boar of good small bone, but was always particular to pick a boar that was thick through the shoulder and head, and a straight-growing pig of the same colour and breed. By carefully following this plan he got the breed so good that it was a