

and fibry hay—bad as it may be—is better than that injured by being made in excessively wet times. Lattermath hay is generally considered superior to ordinary hay in nutritive value; but the succulence of autumn growth and the heavy dews of late fall combine to render its making so precarious that we advocate its much more extended use as silage.

*Drying by Sun-heat.*—It is customary to spread hay out in the sun to dry as soon as it has been cut, the produce being turned frequently, and carried to the stock from the cark without breaking it out, and at evening made up into cocks, which are spread out again when the dew has evaporated on the following morning. A very heavy dew might cause serious injury were one to occur, so that the advisability of cocking the hay the first night should be apparent. The tedding machine can be freely used during the second day if the weather be favourable, and light or medium crops, which do not contain disproportionately large quantities of leguminous plants, may be carried the evening of the third day as a general rule. When the weather is continuously wet the grass must be left as cut, unless—and this is much the wiser plan—it be carried directly to the sile and converted into ensilage. The leaves of all leguminous plants become brittle as they dry, and if handled over-much they break off, a great part of the nutritive value of the whole crop being thus lost. The produce therefore of this class of plant should be turned as little as possible and only by hand in the swathe. Too early carrying is injudicious, because the presence of much sap in the plants induces heating in the rick, sometimes even actual firing. The old method of testing the condition or succulency of the crop by twisting a few stems into a rope is a good and reliable one. If moisture exudes it is yet too early to carry the crop. Experiment proves that from 25 to 40 per cent. of the dry substance is washed out of clover-hay by rain, so that partially dry hay ought always to be made into rather thick or high cocks when rainfall is expected, so that the least possible quantity of water may have access to it. The hay from cocks that have become heated in this way dries very rapidly when spread out in dry weather.

*Clover-hay.*—For marketing purposes greenness is desirable, it being justly regarded as an indication of well-made hay, but the colour is not of much consequence if the produce is to be used at home. The brown clover-hays so frequently seen,

are specially made with the object of obviating the necessity for frequent turning and consequent loss of leaf, (1) while sacrificing the colour. This quality of hay, which is in every respect as nutritive and wholesome as green hay, is made by drying the plants in the sun, turning them once only during the operation, until about two-fifths of the water contained in them is evaporated, that is to say until they are nearly half dried, when they are made into large cocks.

#### AIR AND LIGHT ON THE FARM.

On the farm, are found in greater abundance than anywhere else these primary requisites of health: pure air and sunshine. Yet, owing perhaps to the plentifulness of these bounties, the farmer does not seem to put upon them as much value as he should. Too often he condemns himself and his family in his home, and yet more his cattle in his stables, to suffer from breathing vitiated air. In the same manner, the sunlight which, owing to its purifying properties, should have free access to every farm building, is often only partly admitted by small narrow windows: as if its effects were injurious.

No method of ventilation, however perfect, will avail in a country home if the air is already reudered impure by emanations from filthy surroundings. Too often the air is saturated by some cesspool in which are deposited the washings, slopwaters, etc., from the kitchen. Aside from this inconvenience, the cesspool constitutes a permanent danger, being liable to contaminate the well water by the filtrations which escape from it. Far better is the method of irrigation in order to dispose of slop-water. This needs not to be expensive. An old time roof gutter, perforated at its lower end, with small holes, will convey all slop waters to a piece of cultivated ground near by, if possible to a funser (*sic*) in the garden. If the ground is stirred occasionally, prompt absorption and evaporation will be secured and no bad odors will result. Thus, by this simple process, all dangers of polluting the air or the water of the home are avoided.

Often also emanations from the hog yard or hogpens, in close proximity to which the house is located, will prevent the air from being absolutely pure. The house should be at a reasonable distance from the piggery, but, yet, no bad smells should arise from the hog pens if these are kept clean. Unfortunately, while the farmer generally bestows considerable care upon the horse-and the cow-stables (2) by cleaning them out every day, he seems to think that the hog pen does not require such care, and cleans it only at odd moments.

(1) Italics are the Editor's.

(2) Why not write: stables and cow-house? Ed.