

wheat and grain cannot always continue the Earl asks if it is not therefore desirable to have a crop that will indemnify the farmer for the occasionally low price of grain. Flax, he thinks is such a crop, being the most remunerative that can well be grown. From various parts of the country he has obtained estimates, according to which the profit of a crop of flax would, at usual prices, be more than double that of a crop of wheat.

Another inducement to the cultivation of flax is this, that it would afford increased employment to persons of both sexes, of all ages, and at all seasons of the year.

As another inducement it is stated that flax will grow on almost every description of soil, and will take its place on any part of a rotation. Sir John Mac Neil, one of the largest cultivators of flax in Ireland, says that, though the soil best adapted for the growth of flax is a deep rich loam, yet he grew 600 acres, in 1853, on almost every description of land. Flax appears to grow best and produces the largest quantity, when sown on land on which oats had grown the previous year, but it is the practice in Armagh and Down to sow it after potatoes or turnips, and sometimes after barley. In every case the land should be exceedingly well cleaned, and free from weeds. The seed should be sown immediately after the land is plowed, as the seed is generally six weeks in the ground before it appears, and will be longer if the ground should have lost the moisture it has when first plowed before being sown. After plowing, the land should be harrowed, then rolled with a heavy roller, then harrowed with a light harrow and the seed sown, and finally rolled with a light roller. When the plants are 3 or 4 inches above the ground, the field should be weeded by children, *against the wind*. The plant should be pulled when the lower leaves appear to be decaying, or getting tinged with yellow. This is a very material point to be attended to, for if allowed to get too ripe the *fibres* will be injured, and if pulled too green the *seed* will be injured. The average quantity produced from an acre, in Ireland, may be taken at 2½ tons weighed when dry, or 650 to 750 or 800 lbs. of dressed flax.

Grass seeds and clover may be sown with the flax without any injury to the latter. The land will be very smooth for mowing. Sir J. Mac N. thinks that it is a mistake to suppose that flax injures the land. It may be sown every 4th or

5th year without injury to the land, if the crop is properly weeded.

SCRATCHES IN HORSES.

Messrs EDITORS—I beg leave to send you another remedy for scratches in horses. I apply a plaster of All-healing Ointment. This ointment is composed of 8 parts by weight of oxygen, and one of hydrogen. But you need n't take the trouble to compound it, for our kind Creator has provided it at our hands in unlimited abundance. It is deeply to be regretted that its healing properties are so little known. It is a better application than man has ever invented or ever will invent for healing human as well as brute maladies both internal and external. But it is so simple and natural that men can't have faith in it. Every thing must have some *art* and *mystery* about it to obtain favor. Try this All-healing Ointment, gentlemen. It is cheap and easily applied. I have tried it and it works like a charm. C. N. P.

The free use of our correspondent's prescription [*water* we suppose] will at least promote cleanliness in men and animals, while doctors disagree as to its further effect in the removal of disease.—*Ed. of Cultivator.*

DEGENERACY FROM BREEDING IN-AND-IN.

The fact that animals of all kinds become degenerate from breeding from two parents-between which there is affinity of blood, is one that is pretty well known. It is not always, however, attended to in practice, else we would not have witnessed the degenerate lambs which we have seen this spring. Through thoughtlessness or carelessness a neighbouring flock of ewes was sired by the same buck which has been with them before for two seasons. He sired, therefore, his own lambs, and perhaps his lambs' lambs. The owner knew better, and intended to have procured a change of bucks; but in some way the result above stated happened. The result was a number of very weakly and deformed and idiot-looking lambs. Some were so weak in the hind legs that they could not support their own weight; and some had their hind legs twist outwards when they attempted to walk. One lived several days, but breathed quick and short all the time, and had to be assisted about nursing. One was coarse-woolled almost as a water dog, and looked very stupid and idiotic. Such results seem worthy of being put on record as a warning against like carelessness or neglect in others.