alone. Of the latter we shall only say now that it appears to be a common-sense, practical volume, and to contain many valuable suggestions on the subject to which it relates. We hope shortly to present our readers with a review of this new publication from the pen of one of the most accomplished, enthusiastic and successful pear culturists in Canada, and pending the fulfilment of this hope, we dismiss "pear culture" for the present.

The Farm.

THE DRESSING OF SEEDS TO INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTIVENESS.

In the last number of the ONTARIO FARMER we collated some very curious and instructive facts relating to the fructification of weeds, as experimentally determined by Professor Buckman. We now proceed to follow up an analogous subject, based chiefly on the same authority.

The steeping of seed grain in strong mineral solutions, with a view of cleansing it and of killing the minute germs of fungi which may attach themselves to the epidermis, is an ancient and valuable practice. Pure seed grain, not only free from the seeds of weeds, but also sound and healthy, is a condition of the utmost importance to the farmer. It has been asserted by some that fertility may be considerably increased, and indeed, manure, in some cases, superseded, by incrusting the seed with materials of a fertilizing character. "The subject is one on which we have made a number of experiments on a large scale, and the conclusion arrived at was, that the mechanical absorption of the various ammoniacal and other salts in which the seeds of wheat had been steeped, had no influence at all on their productiveness." M. Trehounais describes the theory on which he recommends the "incrustation" of the seed with fertilizing matter as follows:—He cites experiments by M. Boussingault, in which an artificially prepared soil produced no growth until the addition of small portions of mineral salts, after which the plants grew as well as in a garden strip; "and this," he says, "naturally leads us to ask the question, whether, instead of incurring great expense and trouble in manuring the soil thoroughly with heaps of dung, containing but a small per centage of fertilizing matter, which is still reduced and less available to the plant by being disseminated over a larger surface than the roots of the plant can possibly compass, it is not possible to manure the seed itself—that is, surround it by a crust formed of the very mineral substances which are necessary to its growth in the same proportion as they are found to exist in the seed, and in a sufficient quantity to represent exactly the weight of the aggregate mineral substances which are abstracted from the soil by the well-matured normal plant? The crust could then be considered as the mere extension of the seed to a larger bulk; and as the seed contains what is necessary to feed germination, and even to form a complete plant, though limited in weight to the extent of food contained in the seed, so the seed being increased to any required number of times its size and weight by the agglomeration of substances such as phosphates, nitrates, and silicates, would be able to supply to the growing plant the necessary elements of normal growth and perfect maturity." Our author remarks with respect to this ingenious and somewhat plausible theory, that "the only probable result would be an injury done to the *vitality* of the seed."

TABLE OF SEEDS SOWN PER ACRE AND PER FOOT.

	Seeding in bushels per acre.	Weight of seeds in lbs.	No. of seeds in a lb.	No. of seeds sown per acre.	Seeds per square foot.
Wheat - - -	1 to 2	60 to 120	10,500	630,000 to 1,260,000	14 to 28
Barley - - -	3 to 4	150 to 220	15,400	2,310,000 to 3,388,000	52 to 70
Oats - - - -	3 to 6	120 to 240	20,000	2,400,000 to 4,800,000	55 to 110
Vetches - - -	3 to 4	180 to 240	8,300	146,400 to 1,952,000	32 to 42
Beans (horse) -	2 to 3	120 to 190	1,000	120,000 to 190,000	3 to 4¼
Pease - - -	2 to 3	120 to 190	2,000	240,000 to 380,000	5½ to 8
Flax - - - -	2½ to 3	140 to 180	100,000	14,000,000 to 18,000,000	320 to 380
Lucerne - -	.....	16 to 20	200,000	3,200,000 to 4,000,000	75 to 90
Sainfoin - -	4	80	23,300	1,864,000	43 to 44
Clover - - -	.....	12 to 20	370,000	4,440,000 to 7,400,000	100 to 170