HOME AND FARM.

A writer in the Kentville *New Star*, of 35 years experience as an Onion cultivator, says he has not been able to discover any change in those fundamental principles which are indispensible to its growth and perfect maturity. It requires a fine firm texture of soil, drainage and rainfall (or irrigation) at suitable intervals, and if the soil has been exhausted of its fertility by repeated croppings it will refuse to yield a harvest.

In the matter of rotation, we have increasing evidence that with proper tillage and fertilization, onions may be grown upon the same field for a long term of years with reasonable prospect of success. But methods and systems have changed It was formerly said that the man skilled with the hand hoe who would start early and work hard and long, would be sure to succeed with his crop. While the hard work has not been eliminated, something more is required now. New and improved implements have been introduced whereby labor has been very much abridged.

Chemical fertilizers are more generally used. The demands of the market are constantly changing and there is competition on every side. The successful onion grower of the present time must be not only a willing worker skilled in the use of improved implements, but he must be a well-read, careful observer and able to direct every operation with a well educated judgment.

The soil upon which our onion crop has been grown is alluvial, heavy loam, but easily cultivated, nearly level and free from stones. The recent practice has been to plough in autumn, applying a half-dressing of farm yard manure, to be supplemented with the chemical fertilizers the ensuing season. In early spring we apply to each acre 200 pounds of high grade sulphate of potash, an equal amount of plain superphosphate and 100 pounds sulphate of ammonia, harrow, drag and rake until the ground is very fine, firm and free from all rubbish that would obstruct the seed sower or push hoe. We sow four pounds per acre of yellow Globe Danvers onion seed in drills fifteen inches apart. The demands of the market must, however, regulate to some extent the variety and amount of seed used. The after culture consists in keeping the crop free from weeds and thorough but shallow cultivation, oft repeated, until the crop is nearly grown. We usually apply one hundred pounds nitrate of soda broadcast early in July, and, if the crop seems to require it, repeat the dressing after an interval of a week or ten days.

During the last half of September the crop is ready to harvest, when we pull the onions and allow them to remain on the ground to dry, four or five days before and perhaps as long after removing the tops. Then, if the weather has been favorable, they are in fine condition to store or send to market. We invariably prefer the latter, because it gives more time to attend to other farm work, which always crowds at that season of the year, and also saves cost of storage and re-sorting, though others prefer another course.

The *Cultivator and Country Gentleman* gives the following practical directions for saving manure:—Good farmers generally understand well the importance of saving manure and preventing its waste, but the work is not commonly performed in a neat and systematic manner. If the manure is not drawn out and spread on the fields as fast as it is manufactured or accumulates at the stables, it is frequently thrown out or wheeled out by hand and discharged into irregular heaps, when if it happens to become too dry by heating, or is washed into too liquid a condition by rains, the defect cannot be very easily corrected. If the liquid which has been saved is to be applied or poured on, it is often done too irregularly. Besides, the farmer who likes a handsome appearance in his barn yard, will not esteem such piles of manure for their special neatness.

These objections may be easily avoided. When the manure is wheeled out, lay the foundation base in the shape of a square or oblong, by driving stakes at the corners; and if the pile is a large or long one, inserting stakes at the sides. A wide plank will allow the wheelbarrow to discharge its load as the pile rises, and one or more pieces of plank laid on the top facilitates the work. In this way, the manure is wheeled out and placed where it is wanted, with less labor than for an irregular heap. It is not necessary to make this heap very high, if suitable length or breadth is given to it.

Such a pile may be made more or less into a compost heap, by spreading even alternating layers of any absorbent, such as turf, loam, peat, etc. If litter is largely used in the stables, a little care in wheeling out will give this alternating character to the litter and droppings. The thinner these layers are, the more perfectly the ingredients will be intermixed when the heap rots down. More labor will be required to reduce thick layers, instead of thin ones.

Manure which is well worked together and pulverized, after being thoroughly rotted, is more valuable than manure in unmixed chunks or lumps, and is more evenly spread on land When there are several hundred loads, on large farms, such regularly made long heaps may be mixed and pulverized with horses and plows and harrows, beginning on one side and working gradually over to the other side. But for garden purposes, the work may be done by hand, using such a tool as Hexamer's prong hoe.

A very important requisite in saving and in manufacturing manure, is to preserve the right degree of moisture in the manure heap. If a large quantity of straw litter has been used, it will probably need some liquid addition, either by leaving it exposed to rains, or by turning the liquid manure upon it. These requirements, which vary greatly with circumstances, will decide whether to place the manure heaps under spacious sheds or otherwise. This care will be particularly needed in the smaller heaps for garden use. Hopper like holes may be cut with a sharp spade after the heap is completed, into which water or other liquids may be poured to impart the right degree of moisture, to be ascertained by inspection.

This systematic management will easily admit the small addition of other fertilizers in thin layers, such as ground bone, plaster, lime, ashes and guano, to give additional strength. The manure thus manufactured will be of great value for many purposes, although a large proportion will be most conviently and economically applied by spreading at once on the fields as it accumulates from the stables

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The Sheep and the Land.—The subject of the improvement to the land by sheep is one that is frequently treated in the agricultural and live stock press, but really it does not seem to be understood to the extent that its importance deserves. It is said that a field that has been pastured by sheep will show a marked increase in any crop that may be upon it. That it will show some improvement in fertility is not to be questioned; and then the clearing of the land of much undesirable growth that cannot be got rid of in any other way is a great consideration. These matters are worth taking into consideration by farmers who have never kept sheep. We are firmly of the opinion, even in the face of the adversity that has stuck to the sheep interests so long, that there is money in sheep.

In addition to its value for feeding, clover is one of the best crops for restoring the fertility of the land. Its roots penetrate deep, and thus bring nourishment to the surface that the ordinary grasses do not reach, and as they have been found to weigh 3,000 pounds to the acre when dried, it will readily be seen what an amount of matter is left in the soil when the pasture is plowed. The decay of this adds largely to the fertility of the soil, and on this account clover is made use of on the land that has been rendered unproductive by constant cropping.

The farmer cannot be too often or too strongly cautioned against fraudulent tree, shoddy, agricultural implement, and other agents and pedlars. The amount of confidence foolishly accorded to those rascals is astonishing, and evinces an unwise credulity hardly creditable. It is to be hoped, however, that the warnings so repeatedly given will in time put the whole agricultural interest on its guard.

OUR COSY CORNER.

Diamond Lace.—Cast on thirty-two stitches.

1st row—Slip one, knit two, over, narrow, knit two, narrow, (over, knit three, over, narrow, knit three, narrow) repeat directions enclosed in the parenthesis, over, knit two, over, knit one.

2nd row—Plain until only three remain on the needle, then over, narrow, knit one. (Thirty-three stitches on needle)

3rd row—Slip one, knit two, over, narrow, knit one, narrow, (over, knit five, over, narrow, knit one, narrow,) repeat, over, knit four, over, knit one.

4th row—Like second.

5th row—Slip one, knit two, over, narrow twice, (over, knit seven, over, slip one, narrow, pass the slipped stitch over,) repeat, over, knit six, over, knit one.

6th row—Like second. (Thirty-five stitches on needle.)

7th row—Slip one, knit two, over, narrow, knit two, (over, narrow, knit three, narrow, over, knit three,) repeat, over, narrow, knit five, over, knit one.

8th row—Like second.

9th row—Slip one, knit two, over, narrow, knit three, (over, narrow, knit one, narrow, over, knit five,) repeat, over, narrow, knit five, over, knit one.

10th row—Like second. (Thirty-seven stitches on needle.)

11th row—Slip one, knit two, over, narrow, knit four, (over, slip one, narrow, pass stitch over, over, knit seven), repeat, over, narrow, with the right-hand needle pass the second stitch on the left hand needle over the first one; so continue until but one stitch remains on the needle; knit that one.

12th row—Like second. (Thirty-two stitches on needle.)

Mould can be prevented from forming on fruit jellies by pouring a little parafine wax over the top, which, when cold, will harden to a solid cake, which can be easily removed when desired.

A plaster cast which has become soiled may be made as fresh and white as when new by spreading starch paste over it with a soft brush. The starch dries, and in scaling off brings with it all the impurities.

To clean a hot porcelain kettle, fill half full of hot water and put in a tablespoonful of powdered borax; let it boil. If this doesn't remove all the stains, scour with a cloth rubbed with soap and borax.

Sulphuric acid will remove spots from brass that will not yield to oxalic acid. It may be applied with a brush, but care must be taken that no drop gets on clothes or skin, as it is ruinous to garment and cuticle. Both bricks or rotten stone may be used for polishing, the latter being preferable for delicate work.

A piece of pointed whalebone or pine is good to clean out corners. Wash your windows with sponge and polish with tissue paper.