

MANURE.

Sufficient attention is not paid to the making and application of Manure. The abundance and skilful application of this is the great lever that is to move the agricultural world. It is the food of plants, indispensable to their healthy and vigorous growth. It is the renovator of exhausted soils—the salt that preserves the fertility of those that are not exhausted. It is, therefore, pre-eminently worthy the attention of farmers. The means of increasing it are much greater than are commonly imagined.—Almost every farm has its peculiar facilities in this respect, of which the skilful and industrious husbandman will not neglect to avail himself. The common mode permits a large proportion of the strength of manure to be wasted. A free use of litter, and placing a few loads of swamp mud and henlock turf, or even sawdust, to absorb the liquid part, instead of allowing it to run off in the usual way, will greatly increase the means of fertility.—A little attention to the hog yard, in particular, will richly repay all the requisite time and expense. Manure should all be used in the spring. If suffered to lie over summer, much of its fertilizing power is lost by evaporation. The gases that afford nutriment to the various vegetables we wish to grow, escape into the atmosphere, and are irrecoverably lost. These gases are serviceable to the soil beyond the mere strength they impart to it for the present crop. They tend to meliorate its natural texture, rendering it more suitable for the growth of succeeding seasons. It is said that we want old manure for corn in the hill? I answer, if the soil be sufficiently warm, it is not necessary to manure in the hill, if a liberal allowance is spread. If the land be such as requires manure in the hill, a sufficient quantity should be made in the hog yard and in the barn yard through the summer.

IMPORTANCE OF GOOD SEEDS.—It is of the greatest importance to have good, pure, strong seed for sowing. It is vain to manure and cultivate highly in expectation of good crops, if this primary and vital step is not taken. Let our Agricultural Societies offer premiums for the best seed wheat, barley, oats, &c., that is presented for exhibition at the annual fairs next fall. By so doing the best seed in the different counties will be known, and farmers will soon abandon any kind of seed and take that, that has been proved to be superior and prolific. By this measure, as much as by any other, the annual product of our grain crops can be very much increased.—*Yankee Farmer.*

CORN-COB FEED.—The best way to dispose of cobs, is, of course, to grind them with the corn. But we observe two substitutes which have been successfully made use of. One is to soak the cobs in a half hogshead of brine, when the cattle eagerly thrust in their noses and devour them. The other, or better way, is to boil them. One farmer says he would as soon throw away his fodder as his cobs.

Castor oil is manufactured in large quantities in Illinois, and as a material for light, is preferred to sperm oil. A thousand barrels are said to be made annually in Randolph county alone.

EDUCATION.

Our New Education law comes into operation this year, when unquestionably there will be a great demand for Teachers of good moral character, and respectable acquirements. We trust some of the journals in Britain with whom we exchange, will announce this fact, in order that a portion of the emigration of 1842 may consist of Schoolmasters, than whom no class is more wanted in Canada. We may add, that sobriety will be an essential qualification in new comers, as we have far too many drunken Schoolmasters already.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

The sedentary and unvaried occupations which follow each other for hours in succession in many of our schools have also been the cause of needless suffering to thousands; and it is high time that a sound physiology should step in to root out all such erroneous and hurtful practices. Taken in connexion with the long confinement, the custom of causing the young to sit on benches without any support to the back, and without any variety of motion, cannot be too soon exploded. If the muscles of

the spine were strengthened by the exercise which they require, but which is so generally denied,—and if the school employments were varied or interrupted at reasonable intervals, to admit of change of position and of motion,—nothing could be better adapted for giving an easy and erect carriage than seats without backs, because the play of the muscles necessary for preserving the erect position would give them activity and vigour; and, accordingly, the want is scarcely, if at all, felt in infant schools, for the very reason that such variety of motion is, in them, carefully provided for. But it is a gross misconception to suppose that the same good result will follow the absence of support, when the muscles are weakened by constant straining and want of play. The incessant and fidgety restlessness observable after the second or third hour of common school confinement shows the earnest call of nature for a little wholesome exercise; and the quiet that ensues when it is granted indicates clearly enough that the restlessness springs even more from bodily than from mental weariness. It is, in fact, a degree of what we all feel when kept long standing on our feet, or sitting at a desk. We become wearied and uneasy from the continued strain on the same muscles, and feel at once relieved by a walk, a drive, or any change whatever.

Instead, therefore, of so many successive hours being devoted to study and to books, the employments of the young ought to be varied and interrupted by proper intervals of cheerful and exhilarating exercise, such as is derived from games of dexterity, which require the co-operation and society of companions. This is infinitely preferable to the solemn processions which are so often substituted for exercise, and which are hurtful, inasmuch as they delude parents and teachers into the notion that they constitute in reality that which they only counterfeit and supersede. We have already seen what an important part the mental stimulus and nervous impulse perform, in exciting, sustaining, and directing muscular activity; and how difficult and inefficient muscular contraction becomes, when the mind, which directs it, is languid, or absorbed by other employments. The playful gambling and varied movements which are so characteristic of the young of all animals, man not excepted, and which are at once so pleasing and so beneficial, show that, to render it beneficial in its fullest extent, nature requires amusement and sprightliness of mind to be combined with, and be the source of, muscular exercise; and that, when deprived of this healthful condition, it is a mere evasion of her law, and is not followed by a tithe of the advantages resulting from its real fulfilment. The buoyancy of spirit and comparative independence enjoyed by boys when out of school prevent them suffering so much from this cause as girls do; but the injury inflicted on both is the more unparadonable, on account of the ease with which it might be entirely avoided.

This constitution of Nature, whereby a mental impulse is required to excite and direct muscular action, points to the propriety of teaching the young to observe and examine the qualities and arrangements of external objects. The most pleasing and healthful exercise may be thus secured, and every step be made to add to useful knowledge and to individual enjoyment. The botanist, the geologist, and the natural historian experience pleasures in their walks and rambles of which, from disuse of their eyes and observing powers, the multitude is deprived. This truth is acted upon by many teachers in Germany. In our own country, too, it is beginning to be felt, and one of the professed objects of infant education is to correct the omission. It must not, however, be supposed that any kind of mental activity will give the necessary stimulus to muscular action, and that, in walking, it will do equally well to read a book or carry on a train of abstract thinking, as to seek the necessary nervous stimulus in picking up plants, hammering rocks, or engaging in games. This were a great mistake; for in such cases the nervous impulse is opposed rather than favourable to muscular action.

PARENTAL FAULTS.

There are some faults in managing children which are very common. They have been often pointed out, often rebuked, still they exist on every hand. They are acknowledged as faults by parents, and yet the same parents practice them.

I will mention in this paper three or four which have been obtruded upon my notice. The sound of them has often come up through the window where I sit to write these lines.