

as much as any crop by surface manuring. We hope this method of fertilizing the soil will be extensively adopted for garden crops this season. Those who have not yet tried it will be surprised at the economy and beneficial results of the practice.

Cucumbers for pickling may be sown this month, and Endive for fall Salad set out. Parsley for winter use may be sown now, in boxes of rich soil, and set in a cool, shady place till it germinates.

A-paragus beds should not be cut off after the stalks seem to come up weak, or there will be but a poor crop the next season, and the beds will "run out" in a few years.

Tomatoes, after trying all kinds of trellises recommended, will be found to do best on stakes tied up singly. It is best to plant a strong pole as for Lima Beans with the plants when first set out, and tie up as they grow. Marketmen generally let them grow as they will, on the ground, which, perhaps, although not yielding as much, costs less labor, and may thus be most profitable.

The Swede Turnip or Ruta Baga should be sown about the end of the month. A well enriched piece of ground is essential, as by growing fast they get ahead of the ravages of the fly. Manures abounding in the phosphates—bone-dust, for instance,—are superior for the turnip.

Parsley for winter use may be sown now in boxes of rich soil, and set in a cool shady place till it germinates.

Herbs for drying for future use, should be cut just about the time they are coming into flower. Dry them in the shade, and after sufficiently dry to put away, tie them in bunches, and hang in a cool shed, or place them loosely between the paper, and stow away in cupboards or drawers,—the last mode is by far the cleanest and most approved plan with the best housekeepers. Some, indeed, powder the leaves at once after drying, and put them away in bags, ready for use.

#### AN ESSAY ON THE HOG.

Presented at the Selma Session of the Agricultural Congress.

##### CHESTER WHITES.

This is a breed of hogs which originated in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and probably have been more disseminated in the United States, than any known breed, and up to the last few years, perhaps, have been one of the most popular. The Chesters have not generally been regarded a distinct, or well established breed, neither do we think that many of the breeders of Pennsylvania so regard them; and in thus expressing our views, we would not be understood as wishing to detract any from the merit

or popularity which they may possess, for undoubtedly there are some specimens of this so-called breed which manifest qualities externally deserving the highest commendations; and we think it a great pity, and a still greater wonder, that some individual, skilled in the art of propagation, has never attempted to give them a more definite character.

This breed has been so widely diffused through many of the States, and its general and varied characteristics are so well known, that we deem it unnecessary to offer any particular description, and we think we are offering no injustice to the breed or its advocates, when we say, that owing to the great irregularity of its breeding, no particular description could be given that would apply to many of the specimens claiming the name.

From an article written by Paschall Morris, of Pennsylvania, a well known breeder and advocate of the Chesters, and published in the work of "Harris on the Pig," we extract the following:—"They are generally recognized now as the best breed in this country, coming fully up to the requirements of a farmer's hog, and are rapidly superseding Suffolks, Berkshires; and other smaller breeds. The best specimens may be described as long and deep in the carcass; broad and straight on the back; short in the leg; full in the ham; full shoulder; well packed forward; admitting of no neck; very small proportioned head; short nose; dish face; broad between the eyes; moderate ear; thin skin; straight hair; a capacity for great size, and to gain a pound per day until they are two years old." Again: "We have recently heard of a case where a farmer out West had purchased some pigs from Chester County, and wrote back that part of them were full-blood; part half-blood, and part no Chester at all." We know of another case where a purchaser insisted that a pig from Chester County was half Suffolk.

There is considerable misapprehension about the Chester County breed, so-called. It is constantly forgotten that it is not an original, but a made up breed. They differ from each other quite as much as any one known breed differs from another. We have often seen them—and the offspring, too, of good animals—with long noses which would root up an acre of ground in a very short time; slab-sided, long-legged, uneasy, restless feeders, resembling somewhat the so-called race-horse breed at the South, that keep up with a horse all day in ordinary travel, and that will go over a fence instead of taking much trouble to go through it. They show more development of head than ham, and as many bristles as hair, and are as undesirable a hog as can well be picked up. Any traveller through Chester County can see such specimens continually. Again: When persons

speak, therefore, of a pure Chester hog, or a half-blood, or a quarter blood, we consider it only absurd. There is no such thing. By an original breed is meant one that has been long established, and of which there are peculiar marks and qualities by which it has long been known, and which can be carried down by propagation.

While the sweeping assertion of Mr. Morris, that the "Chesters are rapidly superseding Berkshires, Suffolks and other small breeds," may have been true when made, yet, from the powerful diffusion (in the last few years) of the more refined breeds, connected with other indications from many quarters, we must naturally conclude that the Chesters are on the decline. It is but just, here to remark, that all white breeds, without exceptions, are continually subject to a pustular cutaneous affection called mange, which arises from the burrowing of a minute insect called *acarus*, and is analogous to such in the human body, and is highly contagious and very destructive to young pigs, unless attention and care is continually exercised.

##### ESSEX.

The pure Essex in England was generally classed among the small breeds, and they are so classed in the United States. There is probably no breed whose history is better authenticated than this. They were first established in England by Lord Western, afterwards improved by Fisher Hobbs, Lord Western's tenant, to whose herd all the pure Essex trace back. Their blood seems mainly to consist of the pure Napoleon and the old Essex hog. The improved Essex was generally regarded the best pig of the small breeds in England, and as producing pork and hams of the finest quality for fashionable markets. Owing to its being classed among the small breeds, it has not found so much favor among pork raisers of the United States, as the larger breeds. The Essex possess many peculiar and valuable qualities. The flavor of the flesh is excellent, and their disposition to fatten on a small allowance of food is unsurpassed. The color is entirely black; deep sides; barrel rounded; ears generally upright; medium size head; which is generally carried lower to ground than is usual with other breeds. The sows generally have large litters, but are not the best nurses. They incline to be a little tender, and suffer in winter, unless reasonably well cared for. For crossing with sows of the larger breeds, the Essex is most valuable, as they transmit their qualities deeper and more thoroughly than most breeds. The Essex seem to have grown rapidly in favor in the last few years, and those who are cultivating them hold them in higher esteem than any of the more popular breeds.