

their use persisted in: the tremendous labour connected with the system soon frightens even the most enthusiastic improver. But where, as in the Compton case, the brook travels close to the side of the farm buildings, there is no trouble at all in carrying out the contents of the tank. The urine from the cattle, the contents of the privies, the sewerage, in fact, of the whole establishment, might be collected by the stream, and carried over the meadows at any time thought desirable. As the water filters over the grass—or rather through it—nothing is lost, but all is deposited where it is wanted; and, thus, early and abundant crops are produced for pasturage, or for soiling in the cattleyard or stables, the manure made from the consumption of which may be carried on to the arable land, and so increase, in a very short time, the gross produce of the entire farm. It is a well known fact, that, after passing over the grass, the water, however foul it may have been at first becomes perfectly clear, and fit for all domestic purposes. And these meadows will pay for any judicious labour you may lay out on them. When eaten bare, they should be bush-harrowed, and heavily rolled when the land is moderately damp. After the hay crop is severed, a gentle watering for, say, 24 hours, will do no harm, but, as I mentioned last month, summer-flooding had better be avoided altogether, if sheep are to be pastured.

an enterprising man, who would be willing to invest a few thousand dollars in *intensive* farming on any of the sunny, well-watered banks along the hill-side, might double his capital in a very few years. The soil is willing to grow anything you like to ask it. I never saw such swedes in England—the station is handy, and the neighbourhood pleasant beyond description.

And, now, having described as well as I can the advantages and the general plan of the simplest and cheapest form of water meadows, I proceed to show how such a meadow, in land of the most irregular shape, may be laid out. The level used for this purpose is the ordinary one, an engraving of which was given in our last number. Many of my readers are, doubtless, accustomed to its use, in ditching etc, but others may be glad of information on the subject. It is to be observed that on the cross-piece above the weight there is a notch, in which, when the line lies straight, the plumb level is attained.

Taking the fig. 3 to be a meadow, or a piece of a meadow, we must first consider where the irrigating stream can most easily be introduced, consideration being given to cheapness combined with practical utility. Let us suppose that the point A is the most convenient spot. Next, consider in what direction the water, if left to itself, would probably run: take

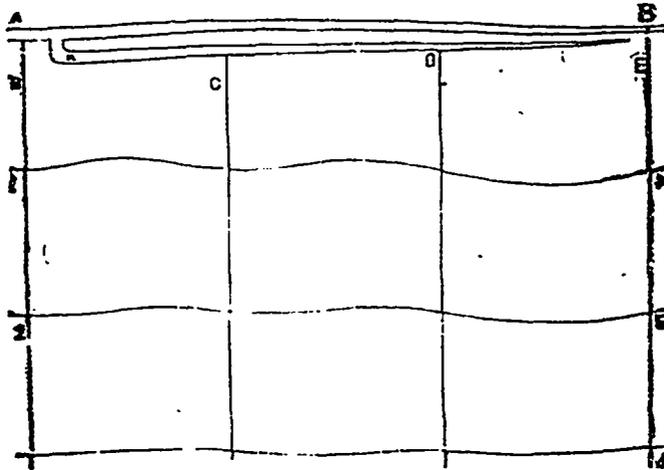


Fig. 2.

I see no reason why—where, as at Compton, land, exposure, and water, are all propitious—strawberries should not be cultivated for the market. Irrigation—in summer, of course, in this case—would double the size of the berries, and, consequently, more than double the value of the crop: fine fruit, as my readers know, always fetches an extra price. It would pay well to lay out the beds for the strawberries as described in the last number of the Journal p. 124 eng. bedwork. A very thin sheet of water, running for about 12 hours at a time, will be sufficient. In the early stages of growth, the land should be stirred frequently with the hoe round the plants. The last watering should be given just before the berries begin to colour; after which the beds should be kept as dry as possible: strawberries ripened in rainy weather have no flavour. The wild strawberries on the slopes below the upper road at Compton are, without exaggeration, enormous; many of them as large as my thumb-nail! Superb in colour, and full of flavour, if the season is suitable. I fancy there are many hundred acres in the Towships which offer equal inducements to the fruit-grower, but I know what I am talking about as to Compton. I studied the country thoroughly in 1873, and I am sure that

the line, for instance, from 1 to 2. Take the level, and proceed to mark out that line in the following way: set the feet 1 and 2 level on the ground by means of the plumb-line 3; mark the place of no. 1; then advance the level, putting no. 1 in the place of no. 2, and finding a new place for no. 2 by means of the plumb-line. Go on in the same way until you have got a level line across the meadow. Some one, following, should make a mark with a hoe or other tool at every other move of the level—there will thus be a *sign* at every ten feet. Now, begin this levelling at B, and, if the ground is tolerably flat, you will get a line somewhat in the same direction as B C. The *arrows* indicate the way in which the water is to be made to run on in the gutter-line. To manage this, you must deviate a little from the precise level, letting the plumb-line drop a little *before* the level mark when you are inclining *down* the meadow, and *behind* it when the inclination is *up* the meadow. The water will, then, run out of the low places, and upon the high places. Follow all the indications of the level, however curved or crooked they may be.

When you have finished the line B C, return to a point D, which should be, generally speaking, about thirty feet