

soil into the space between the drills. Some persons at once commence thinning after this ploughing, but it is better after a few days to run a cultivator or horse-hoe between the drills, to stir up the soil and to some extent restore it to its place. Others use the horse-hoe alone without any previous ploughing, and this serves the purpose quite well where there are few weeds.

This operation being finished, every procurable hand must be employed in *singling* or *thinning*, a process very speedily performed by skilful workers with proper tools. The proper implement is a thin steel hoe, with a light straight handle, 3 to 4 feet long. In the Scottish method, in which the thinning is performed at one operation, the hoe used is 7 inches wide, but where the thinning is performed at two operations it should be only 4 to 5 inches wide. Hoes are very cheap, so do not put clumsy tools into the hands of thinners.

In thinning the worker should stand with one foot on each side of the drill next to the one to be thinned, and the plants to be removed are either *pushed* or drawn out of the drill, (the former is usually considered the better way), leaving single plants at say 10 inches apart, or at 5 inches if the thinning is to be finished at another time. Thinning turnips is light work, but it requires much skill and care to leave the plants single and yet uninjured. In Scotland and England women are preferred as turnip singlers, and in America, where the turnip crop is at all extensively cultivated, much of the work is done by children, who, however, are seldom sufficiently careful. Where children or young people are employed, premiums should be given to them for the best work. In England it is estimated that one experienced singler can thin half an acre of turnips in a day of ten hours.

The thinning being finished, the horse-hoe is sent through the drills, and when the singling is completed at once, another hoeing is given. When the plants are only half thinned at first, the second thinning answers to this, and should be carefully done, so as to leave the plants quite regular, and with their roots sufficiently covered. Finally the horse-hoe is again used, or the drills are slightly earthed up with the plough. The whole work is thus reduced to three or four ploughings or horse-hoings, and two hand-hoings, and the time occupied by these last need not, even for an inexperienced worker,

be estimated at more than three days per acre.

We close this article with the following instructive extracts from Peters and Stephens:—

*Hoeing and Cleaning.*—This is the most important part of turnip culture, for manure as heavily as you please, if this is neglected, or carelessly or imperfectly done, you will not have a good crop; a few days' delay, carelessness, or inattention now, will make a difference of hundreds of bushels per acre. There is no crop on your farm which can so ill bear delay at this time as your turnips, and unless you can afford to throw away the labour you have expended, and to forego the benefit of a good supply of turnips for your stock, do this *when it should be done, and do it well.* If you are short handed, let every man, woman, and child, who can lift a hoe, or pull a weed, go to work in earnest, and the job will soon be accomplished; and, what is more, your children will become expert at turnip culture, on which all successful farming in this Island will, before long, depend: and remember that a good turnip hoer never takes his eye from the ground until called to dinner; recollect this yourself and impress it on the children, and there will be no stopping to talk, nor ceasing work to gaze at every passer by, by which so much time is often lost. The method I have found best in hoeing, is this: as soon as the leaves are between two and three inches long, run a plough between the drills, taking away the earth on each side to within about two inches of the plants, this will make a little ridgelet between each drill, and cover up all the weeds; and if the horse hoe is run about a week afterwards, they will be found quite rotten and form a good manure for the land; (some use the horse hoe only, but if there is much yar and weeds, the plough makes the best work.) Then set to work with the hand hoes, and thin the plants five inches apart: do not be afraid of stripping the roots of the plants, as the more they are exposed the better; when the plants are a good size, and the leaves begin to touch each other, a second hoeing must be given, cutting out every other plant; this will leave them ten inches asunder, taking away at the same time any weeds that are between them. This second hoeing is very quickly done. If the land is very weedy, the horse hoe should be run between the drills, once before the second hoeing, and once after, and this will complete the work.

The distance between the rows of turnips has been fixed, conventionally no doubt, at twenty-seven inches, which is a very convenient distance for drilling up the land in the first place, with the common or double mould board plough, for dunging it with the ordinary tilt cart, and for working the implements employed in turnip culture, such as the sowing drills, and the succeeding scufflers and

drill harrows. The distances between the plants should be about twelve inches for the Swedes, and nine inches for yellow turnips and globes, and to insure regular and proper distances, the *singling* of the crop with the hoe should be regarded as one of the most important operations which claims your attention. For example, 5 lb. turnips at 9 inches asunder give a crop of 57 tons 12 cwt.; whereas the same weight of turnip, eleven inches apart give only a little more than forty-seven tons. Now how easy is it for careless people to thin out the plants to eleven instead of nine inches, and yet by so doing no less than 10½ tons of turnips are sacrificed.

We may add before leaving this part of the subject, that watering the turnip crop with liquid manure, not only remarkably aids the growth, but is a great safeguard against the depredations of insects.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

FOR THE FARMER'S JOURNAL.

*Agricultural Communications and Agricultural Education.*

HEMINGFORD, March 30, 1856.

SIR,—Having seen a wish expressed in your columns, that you could meet with more correspondents amongst the Agricultural portion of the inhabitants of the Province,—I take this opportunity of addressing a few remarks to you. The reason that I conceive you have so much difficulty in obtaining communications is from the fact that farmers in general are not a literary class of men, being composed for the most part of persons who have emigrated to this country with limited capital, and who are only now just beginning to enjoy the benefits resulting from years of continuous labour and hardship, and from their having been used all their lives to incessant toil, they are little accustomed to even reading works of a professional nature, still less of writing upon professional subjects. Now, my object in addressing you upon the present occasion, is to point out the benefit which would result to the rising generation from a more general diffusion of the theory and practice of agriculture. It does seem extraordinary to me that of so widely practised and of so all important a profession as farming, so little should be generally known of its theory and principles, embracing as they do so much of chemistry, mechanics, and many other subjects which of themselves require years of study to become masters of; and that no steps are taken to provide any information whatever on a subject which affects alike the interest of every member of the community. Now, I think that something might be done to improve matters, if a library of well selected works were attached to each Agricultural Society throughout the Province, and further information might be pro-