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MANURES.

INCRUSTATION OF SEEDS.

A new idea, or an old idea newly applied in regard to plant-food, or manure, is just now attracting attention in France and England. We have read the discussions and suggestions on the subject with much interest, and we believe the intelligent, enquiring readers of the *Agriculturist*, will agree with us, after perusing the following summary of the new plan and the reasonings in support of it, that it is a matter well worthy of consideration and experimental test by the practical as well as the scientific farmer. Concentrated manures are but little used in this country as yet, but every year they are becoming more important. Formerly, when science was still in its infancy, experience to a certain extent, but routine especially, were the only guides of agriculturists in their modes of preparing the ground for the reception of the seed. Farm-yard manures and bare fallows were the only means of restoring the spent energies of the soil; and these were then, and are even now to a great extent, indiscriminately resorted to, without any regard to the chemical constitution of the soil, or the requirements of the plants that are to grow upon it. This remark applies to the best cultivated portions of Europe, as well as nearly the whole of America. Analytic science, and the wonderful discoveries of vegetable physiology, have of late years thrown a great deal of light upon the subject of manure, its mode of application to the soil, and its assimilation by the plants. And yet, practically, little progress has been made. We see a great many kinds of artificial manures daily advertised in the agricultural papers of Great Britain and the United States, but, after all, the progress accomplished is by no means adequate to the strides which science has made in the analytic knowledge of manures, in the exact appreciation of their fertilizing qualities and their action upon vegetation in various plants. We still cart away to our fields the same ponderous loads of farm-yard dung, a large per centage of which is of no earthly use, and can only be regarded