

Farmer's Club Meeting.

The first public Agricultural Meeting of 1871 was held in the Agricultural Hall, Dundas street, London, on Thursday, the 12th of January, according to the notice that appeared in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Mr. George Jarvis was appointed Chairman, and Mr. J. F. Simpson was appointed Secretary. After the objects of the meeting were explained by Mr. Weld, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1st,—That this meeting doth strongly recommend that the FARMER'S ADVOCATE be still conducted without going over to either political party, and that the interests of the farmers will be better served thereby.

2nd,—That this meeting doth consider it would be of much advantage to establish a Farmer's Club for the discussion of general agricultural subjects.

3rd,—That a public meeting be held in the same place on Thursday, the 19th of January, at 2 o'clock p. m., to discuss the plans for the establishment of the Farmer's Club, and any other subjects pertaining to agricultural interests.

(Signed) G. JARVIS,
Chairman.

Old Maxim.

"HOE YOUR OWN ROW."

BY ALICE CARY.

I think there are some maxims
Under the sun,
Scarce worth preservation;
But here, boys, is one
So sound and so simple.

'Tis worth while to know,
And all in the single line,
Hoe your own row!

If you want to have riches,
And want to have friends,
Don't trample the means down,
And look to the ends;
But always remember,
Wherever you go,
The wisdom of practising
Hoe your own row!

Don't just sit and pray
For increase of your store,
But work; who will help himself
Heaven helps more.
The weeds while you're sleeping
Will come up and grow,
But if you would have the
Full ear, you must hoe!

Nor will it do only
To hoe out the weeds,
You must make the ground mellow
And put in the seeds;
And when the young blade
Pushes through, you must know
There is nothing will strengthen
The growth like the hoe!

There's no use of saying
What will be, will be;
Once try it my lack-brain,
And see what you'll see;
Why, just small potatoes,
And few in a row;
You'd better take hold, then,
And honestly hoe!

A good many workers
I've known in my time—
Some builders of houses,
Some builders of rhyme;
And they that were prospered,
Were prospered I know,
By the intent and meaning of
Hoe your own row!

I've known, too, a good many
Idlers who said—
I've a right to my living,
The world owes me bread!
A right! lazy lubber!
A thousand times no!
'Tis his, and his only,
Who hoes his own row!

Horticultural Department.**Hints for February.**

BY H. WHITNALL.

This is a month like the last; the out-door operations of the gardeners are almost suspended in this climate; pruning may be continued through this month. The providing of manure and preparing it for hot beds is about all that can be done. The cause of heat and preparing is as follows:—When the temperature is 45 degrees, moisture and atmospheric air occur to deaden vegetable matters, and these absorb large quantities of oxygen, involving also an equal volume of carbonic acid. Where vegetable substances absorb oxygen gas in large quantities, much heat is evolved by them when putrifying; advantage of this is taken by employing leaves, stable litter and tan, as sources of heat for hot beds.

HOT BEDS.

The common method of making hot beds is usually of stable dung, and that of the best fed horses is preferable. If taken from the stable and kept in a heap for eight or ten days before using it, and if turned over, throwing the outsides into the middle, it would be an advantage. This will give it a more steady heat. If it is found while turning to be very dry and fresh, it must be moderately moistened and left for five or six days more, and when making your hot bed, if very dry, use a little more water, for a regular state of moisture is of the first importance to the obtaining of a favorable fermentation. A few leaves or tan may be mixed with advantage, the heat is generated during a greater length of time. For making the beds it would be better in having an aspect a few points eastward of the south. The dung must be thoroughly mixed and carefully separated and spread evenly with the fork. It should be settled down in every part alike by beating it with the fork as the work proceeds. This is better than treading it, for if too much compressed a high degree of heat is generated but soon spent, and if stamped too much there will be no heat at all.

To prevent the sudden changes of temperature in the external air affecting the heat of the bed, you should coat the sides with sand or earth, about a foot or two foot thick would not be too much. If the heat declines coatings are made use of, which consist of hot fermented dung put in the place of the earth coating, and the earth placed round that again, if the weather is very severe it may be placed to the very top of the frames. The depth of earth, as well as the time and manner of applying, vary considerably. My experience has taught me never to put the earth on until three or four days after the bed is formed; let the earth be sifted, and of a light kind, and put on about six to eight inches in depth, and let it be even. The roots of plants are very liable to injury from an excessive heat in the bed. Therefore, the seed should not be planted for four or five days after the earth has been put in. Several plans have been devised to prevent this. If plants in pots are plunged in the earth, they may be raised an inch or two by dropping a small stone in the bottom of the holes they are inserted in. But a better plan I think is to insert them within other pots rather larger, a space filled with air being thus interposed between the roots, and a source of heat and security is attained. To prevent the same injury occurring when the plants are in the earth of the bed, a moderate layer of nest-dung laid between the earth and the fermenting mass, is much preferable to a similarly placed layer of turf.

A plan I have found very successful, and saving much labor for very early beds, is this:—Take a woven hurdle made of round wood or branches, sufficiently strong to bear the earth and frame, let it be somewhat larger than the frame, place it upon it, and the earth is laid within it, thus the whole can be moved together without disturbance. An advantage is here gained, for instead of coating the bed all round, the hurdle, the frame and all its contents can be raised, and the old dung can be taken out and fresh put under. This plan has an especial advantage when bark beds are employed instead of manure, for you can lift the frames to stir the bark, which it requires occasionally to renew the heat.

To ascertain the heat in the bed a small sharp pointed stick should be thrust into the centre, let it remain long enough to become heated, then drawn out quickly and grasped with the hand, will afford a rough estimate of the heat of the bed. To make a bed of tanner's bark should be in a pit lined with boards

or bricks, and the hurdle with the frame resting upon it; the tan should be fresh, it keeps a longer heat; from five to six months steady heat is much preferred for tender exotics. If the tan should be very wet it is safer to let it lay for a week and drain, as too much moisture is liable to prevent fermentation, and in making the bed do not stamp it or it will retard the fermentation, or entirely prevent it, and do not allow the earth to get mixed with the tan, for this will prevent fermentation. A tan bed properly managed will attain sufficient warmth in a fortnight for the insertion of plants. A middle-sized bark is the best, and by renewing the heat and adding a few loads as required, it may be kept going the year round.

HOT HOUSE.

Admit air freely during mid-day when weather permits. Bulbs plant for a succession, particularly Hyacinths and Crocuses. The thermometer for most stove plants may be kept at 70 degrees during mid day. Roses treat as in January. Do not syringe whilst in blossom. Tobacco fumigations give weekly, oftener if insects appear.

GREEN HOUSE.

Admit air freely whenever practicable; cut dead wood out as it appears; give heat as necessary to keep the temperature above 32 degrees; renew your labels where wanted; water a little oftener than last month, but only a little at a time; raise the temperature gradually from the middle of the month; this is pretty much all that can be done in the house this month.

WINDOW PLANTS.

Should be treated the same as in last month, of which a full account was given, taking care to pick all dead leaves off. More advice will be given in this journal as the season advances.

SNOW.

Is one of the gardeners and farmers best shelters, and should never be removed from his out-door crops, it prevents heat from radiating from them, protects them from freezing, drying blasts, and being a bad conductor of heat, prevents its escape from them.

SOIL.

What the soil contains may not be understood by all. It is, however, varying in the proportions, but every soil is composed of silica, alumina, lime, magnesia, oxide of iron, salt, and animal and vegetable remains. The most important consideration is what proportions those are which constitute a fertile soil. Now, a fertile soil is one which contains such a proportion of decomposed matter and of moisture as to keep the crop growing upon it always supplied with food in a state fit for them to take in and yet not so superabundantly as to make them too luxuriant, if the object be for the production of seed. But for those plants whose foliage is the part in request, such as Spinach, as bulbous roots, that is onions, &c., which have a small expanse of leaves, so as to be almost entirely dependant upon the soil for nourishment there can scarce be an excess of decomposed matter presented to the roots. A subsoil of gravel mixed with clay, I think, is the best, if not abounding in oxide of iron. Clay retains the moisture on the surface in too great an excess, and sand on the contrary carries it away too fast. In affording warmth to plants the earth is of considerable importance, and the power of accumulating and retaining heat varies as much in soils as the proportions of their constituents or substances. I have no doubt but you may have observed that crops on light colored, tenacious soils are generally more backward in spring, but retain their verdure longer in autumn than those on black, light soils; the latter attain a general warmth more readily, but part from it with equal speed. Every person accustomed to be upon the land and among the crops, must have observed that there is scarcely a garden or farm but has some particular crop which it sustains in luxuriance far superior to any other in its neighborhood, or to any other crop that can be grown upon it. It is certain that a soil is often considered unproductive, and that is attributed to some deficiency in its staple, when in truth the defect arises from mismanagement. The silicious, darker colored soil should be employed for early crops, because such soil will more readily get rid of the superfluous moisture, and earlier acquire genial warmth.

FENCING AND HEDGING.

It must be pretty clear to every observing farmer in this country that although we have plenty of timber for the present use, we shall find it scarce in a few years, and too costly for building fences. I therefore recommend the

planting of hedge or line fences. This, of course, will be four or five years before becoming useful. There are many plants or shrubs that will make a hedge. I will mention a few, having had some little experience in the raising of hedges.—Hawthorn, blackthorn, crab, 1 metre and alder, these are all proper for the purpose. Of hawthorn (crataegus) there are fifty or more species. They are chiefly hardy and low trees, but shed their leaf. They may be raised from seeds, buds or grafts; the seeds should be planted in fall, that they may be subjected to the frost, and then some of them will lay in the ground two years. Alder, (alnus) hardy, shed their leaves and propagate them from layers or seed. They require a moist soil. Of Limetree (telia) there are three species, deciduous raised from seed; they require a deep, light and fertile soil. The Privet makes a good garden hedge (thuja). Arbor Vitae—there are several species, the American forms good evergreen hedges; but care must be taken in planting them so as not to let the roots get dry. They form the best hedges, but are slow in growth, and will grow in wet or dry boggy soil. But the best hedge in light or sandy soils is the Maclura or Osage Orange. The Buckthorn Bhammus Cartharticus is a hardy shrub, and I think would do well in this climate of cold. I would recommend planting a small portion, say one field each year, and fence it so as to keep cattle from it if you are obliged to turn them in. I have mentioned several sorts to suit all soils. Some of them that do not grow thick at the bottom I would drive stakes into the ground so as to leave about four feet above and three feet apart in the row; cut the plant half way through near the ground, and twist it in and out of the stakes one upon the other to the height of the stakes, these will all grow and form one mass, and by keeping it trimmed afterwards will form a good fence. As some grow much faster on various soils, and from having good treatment, they must judge the height of the plant for cutting and staking. Care should be taken when the plants are young to keep them clean, or the mice will harbor round them in the winter and bark them.

Toads and Bees.

Toads are very useful animals to the farmer and gardener, and it is a pity that they are not equally so to the bee-keeper. The insectivorous propensities that incline them to swallow beetles, moths and caterpillars, unfortunately leads them to eat bees; and not the big fat drones alone—those fussy old fellows, that, like some bipedal animals of a higher order, make a great din and do little—but the industrious little workers that come home laden with honey or pollen, are taken in and no questions asked.

His toadship sits quite still, and whenever a poor little bee comes within reach of his long flexible tongue, there is a quick snap, and presto, the bee is gone. Not content with catching bees on clover heads and among the flowers and grass, toady becomes impertinent; he marches up to the bee hive, and woe betide the poor wearied bee that drops short of the alighting board, when he is by.

We once had two hives placed close to the ground, and with alighting boards that were easily accessible to the toad, if he chose to jump a little. One morning there were two large ones seated on one of the alighting boards, like sentries, on each side of the entrance, and they exacted toll from every bee that attempted to enter, and the toll was like that levied by the old robber barons of the Rhine; it was all they had, and themselves too. The other hive had a great fat overgrown old fellow, playing the part of King Crane. The way he took down a bee, showed that he was an adept at the business. There he sat, squatted on the board, with head close to the entrance, and his big goggle eyes sparkling, Miss' bee alights; the great mouth is opened, the tongue thrust out, and as quickly drawn back, and with it the gatherer of honey. Some minutes were devoted to the study of this trait in the toad's character, and then they found themselves taking an involuntary flight over a fence. The hives were raised after that, and toads were less encouraged to stay in that vicinity.—Ohio Farmer.