

Draining." His plan was to dig trenches, lay facines in the bottom of the drain, and cover them with stripes of bark. Drains on this principle costing little more than the labor, he states, were perfectly effective for upwards of twenty years. Let this be tried on a quarter of an acre, and the result will be, that stiff soils will be found to be more easily and cheaply worked; manures will have more effect and will go further; seed time and harvest will be earlier and more sure; larger crops and of a better quality will be reaped; wheat will grow on soil formerly unproductive, and acre after acre added, as the farmer finds time and means, to that already drained.

Deep ploughing, where land is well drained, is also of the greatest benefit, this was so thoroughly and admirably explained by our passed President in his address last year, that I shall refer you to it, and pass on to the notice of what I consider one of the greatest defects in our present system of farming. Our farms are much too large, or in other words, we attempt to cultivate more land than we have either the force or the means of tilling to advantage. The consequence is, that the soil, from want of manure, and being properly worked, is soon run out, and becomes unproductive. If one-half of the quantity of land, now merely scratched over, were thoroughly cultivated, farmers would find their crops much greater, and would soon place themselves in a position to handle to advantage the large farms their present system yearly tends to impoverish.

I should, had time permitted, have made some remarks upon stock generally, a branch of farming in which we have made most satisfactory improvements. The enterprise of individuals, and the exertions of local agricultural societies in procuring good stock, are now beginning to produce a marked influence at our shows. Sheep of all the most approved breeds; fine cattle, both thorough bred and grade, are exhibited, and a growing taste for the improved breeds is becoming each year more manifest. Fearing, however, I might detain you too long, I shall confine myself to one class only, and proceed to the consideration of the most noble, and I may add, the most useful animal on a farm, viz., the Horse. He is, however, sadly mismanaged by our farmers in general, both as to breeding, and the care and treatment bestowed upon him. Horse breeding is usually considered both unsatisfactory, and as attended with more trouble, and less profit than any other description of stock raising. This, I am inclined to think, arises, in a great degree, either from a want of knowledge on the breeder's part, or from the neglect of certain rules which should be particularly attended to by them. Most men think when a mare is fit for nothing else, she is fit to breed from; this is a great mistake; to raise good colts she must have a good constitution as well as form, and should be free from certain diseases, which long experience has proved to be hereditary, such as blindness, roaring, thick wind, (commonly called heaves in this country), spavins, curbs, ringbones, and founder, all of which are often bequeathed to their progeny, both by sire and dam; and even when they do not appear in the first generation, frequently do in the next, many veterinarians of eminence go so far as to maintain that the consequences of hard work, or ill-usage will descend. Peculiarities of form and constitution will also be inherited, and unskilful or careless breeders often pair animals so badly that the good points of both are lost, and the defects increased, the produce being inferior both to sire and dam; if, therefore, a man has a diseased or broken-down mare, it would be cheaper for him to buy horses than to breed from her. I may, however, be asked, what is a poor farmer to do when he has an unsound mare, and not sufficient cash to purchase, having at the same time a large run for young animals, should he not breed from them? He had better not; let him purchase foals from some more fortunate neighbor, and when they are four years old he will have useful beasts at little more cost than wretched brutes bred from his unsound mare would come to at the same age, and which would probably be quite valueless.

Form being hereditary, to avoid disappointment a breeder must consider for what market he intends a horse, as what is a defect in an animal intended for light draught and the saddle, is a highly desirable point in a farm horse, or one intended for heavy draught, I refer particularly to the inclination of the shoulder: in the first case it should be oblique, this form lessening the shock on the forelegs when the horse is put to fast work, in the latter it is desirable, if not absolutely necessary that it should be upright, which enables an animal to throw more weight into the collar when called upon in a dead pull. In choosing a stallion some attention should be paid to his temper. It would not, perhaps, be advisable to reject a horse, perfect in other respects, because he is vicious, but breeders may lay their account to having in many cases great trouble in breaking colts got by such a sire.