

MANURES.

No soil will continue to produce good crops without manure ; the farmer should therefore endeavour, first, to prevent waste of the dung and urine, both as regards quantity and quality ; secondly, to increase the quantity by every means within his reach. Bous-singault, page 256, on this subject, says :—

“ In agricultural establishments in which the importance of manure is duly appreciated, every precaution is taken both for its production and preservation. Any expense incurred in improving this vital department of the farm, is soon repaid beyond all proportion to the outlay. The industry and intelligence possessed by the farmer may indeed almost be judged of at a glance by the care he bestows on his dung-hill. It is truly a deplorable thing to witness the neglect which causes the vast loss and destruction of manure over a great part of these countries. The dung-hill is often arranged as if it were a matter of moment that it should be exposed to the water collected from every roof in the vicinity, as if the business were to take advantage of every shower of rain to wash and cleanse it from all it contains that is really valuable. The main secret of the admirable and successful husbandry of French Flanders may, perhaps, lie in the extreme care that is taken in that country to collect everything that can contribute to the fertility of the soil. Our agricultural societies, which are now so universally established, would confer one of the greatest services on the community, if they would encourage, by every means at their command, economy of manure ; premiums awarded to those farmers who should preserve their dung-hills