

MANURING ORCHARDS.

When orchards bear profusely, or the soil through which their roots extend, yields crops which are removed from the ground, the trees ought to be supplied with an ample dressing of manure, as often, at least, as once in four or five years. We think, however, a better way is to allow the orchard to take its place in a rotation. Unlike many others, we would not object to occupying the ground with any particular species of vegetation, but, let it be potatoes, corn, wheat, or oats, as the soil or the judgment of the owner may dictate. But we do insist that where an exhausting crop has been taken, ample compensation in manures should be made, for the exhaustion thus occasioned.

It is better, however, as a general rule, that orchards be plowed only in their younger days, before their tops become much developed; then put the ground in the highest condition of fertility, and lay it down to grass, and invite the extremities of the outspreading, pendent branches to fall as low as the ground, if they should prefer. This greatly facilitates and economizes harvesting when fruit is hand picked, as all valuable fruit should be, and the grass may be equally well secured under such trees, as when the branches are more elevated. We admire a luxuriant orchard, with its broad, umbrella top sweeping the ground when loaded with rich, blushing fruit, and no fields can be better occupied than with such a harvest, if the varieties are well chosen, and the trees have received the proper care.

If the orchard is in a meadow, and the grass and apples are annually removed, the leaves will of course follow them, as soon as the autumnal blasts or wintry winds sweep over the smooth surface, and thus is the ground robbed of all the vegetable matter to which it has given life through the season. Were the orchard well protected as the forest, by its numerous low swales, fallen branches, or upturned trunks and roots, and the innumerable standing trees, the decaying leaves and branches, and fallen trunks would restore to the soil all it had abstracted; but in the absence of these its natural manures it must receive others or starve.

Ashes are one of the best applications for an orchard; so, also, is swamp muck, or a compost of barn yard manure; charcoal is excellent, as is also lime, and occasionally bone dust, plaster, and salt, each of which is appropriately applied around the roots. Scraping the trunks when they become unthrifty, mossy, or hide bound, and washing with strong soap suds or wood ashes ley, and then give a strong coat of whitewash, are attended, with the best effects. These act both as manure and destroy insects and worms.

TO PREVENT COWS FROM KICKING.—MR. EDITOR—One of the trials or vexations that dairymen have to be subject to, is kicking cows. From the removal of calves from their mothers, chaped teats, and bad dispositions, it may be safe to say that no dairyman gets through the milking season without encountering this annoyance. Any method therefore that will save the poor cows the cruel knockings, kickings, and hard names, that they frequently on such occasions, or even the more moderate system of a "single blow, with time for reflection," as recommended in the "*Cultivator*," a few years ago, is at least worthy of trial.

Cattle are, in some respects, like some human beings: they will do more to gratify a bad disposition, than to comply with wholesome discipline; hence it will be found very difficult to find a remedy that will apply equally well in all cases. The following method will perhaps approach as near perfection in that respect as any that can well be hit upon. It has at least humanity to recommend it. Cause the cow to stand upon *three legs* during the operation of milking. This may be done by simply noosing a small cord around the fore foot, and bringing it up to the body, and wrapping the cord twice around the leg above the upper joint, and tucking the end under, or which will do about equally well, fasten the chain or tie rope to the manger or stanchion about two feet from the floor, and then hang the fore leg across that.

The next best method perhaps is the old English "cow tye," which is nothing more than a soft rope about 2 inches long, with a noose at one end and a wooden tie on the other. Wrap this around the slender part of the hind legs and cross it once or twice between, so as to make it lap tight, and it will generally, in a short time, make a cure.—*Country Gentleman*.