

The Committee think it not too much to assume that the practical instruction afforded by the Agricultural Museum, upon almost every point of rural economy, fairly entitles it to this distinction.

It clearly elucidates how the desired improvements may be effected; and exhibits the result in actual specimens of produce, accompanied by well-attested statements as to acreable amounts, &c.; models of drain, specimens of draining tiles, the best implements of every description, furnished by the most eminent manufactures of the United Kingdom; seeds, grasses, and cereals, in great variety; a collection illustrative of the diseases affecting them; specimens of flax with models of implements applicable to its manufacture, models of cottages, farm-houses and offices; a large veterinary collection; specimens of various kinds, and preparations of the turf, coal, marble, building stones, clays, and metals found in different parts of Ireland, together with many miscellaneous articles of use and interest, are here daily presented throughout the year to the inspection of numerous visitors; but the committee felt all this would be incomplete without an occasional exhibition of green crops, believing that there is no country in the world better suited to their production than Ireland, and that farmers might be easily induced to apply themselves to an assiduous cultivation of them. They accordingly decided (under the sanction of the Society) upon holding an annual show of farm produce, and upon allotting premiums to the most successful exhibitors.

The first of these shows was held on the establishment of the Museum, in November, 1844; and the last is still open.

At the outset they would have found it difficult, if not impossible, to have procured from any one individual, in Ireland, a dozen varieties of the cereals, and were largely indebted to their kind friends in Scotland for fine collections of them, but those now in the Museum are of Irish growth, and one presented this year, by Mr. M'Cormick, consists of no less than 141 distinct varieties of wheat. Mr. Kelly also presented 60 varieties of wheat, 70 of oats, 26 of barley, and a very fine collection of the indigenous grasses of Ireland.

The present show opened on the 3rd ult. It was visited a few days afterwards by His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, who was pleased to express himself in terms of high praise respecting it. Its merits were also warmly extolled by the judges, and many others whose pursuits equally qualified them to form a just opinion, and, indeed, it is not too much to assert, that a finer display of the sort was never presented to public inspection in this, or any other country.

SMALL FARMING.—The following paragraph in a newspaper lately came under our notice:—"IMPROVEMENT.—In the cornyard of the farm at Petty, Morayshire, there are 101 stacks

of corn, each stack averaging 13 quarters of grain. Last year there were only 88 stacks in this yard, and of a much smaller size. About thirty years ago, the farm was tenanted by a number of small cotters, and their whole produce would scarcely average 10 small stacks. This piece of information should not be suffered to pass without comment. It furnishes, in a few words, a thorough explanation of the advantages of *large* over *small* farming. A piece of land which, thirty years ago, under the cottar system of farming, produced only 10 small stacks, now when in one farm, conducted on improved principles, produces 101 large stacks. It is evident that there is a gain of at least 91 stacks by the change. Who is it that makes this gain? First, the landowner, who receives a larger rent; second, the farmer, who has a larger proportion of the return for his trouble and outlay of capital; third, the public, who have ten times the quantity of food brought to market. But probably six families have been expelled in order to make room for one great capitalist farmer. Quite true; yet it is to be observed that all the grain which the six families could furnish was ten stacks. Suppose, then, we go back to the former state of things, what are we to do for lack of the additional ninety-one stacks? If the subsistence of cottar families were alone concerned, we might be contented to see no more than ten stacks sent to market. But this meagre condition of things will, unfortunately, not answer the demands now made for food. Twenty-eight millions of people require to have daily bread, and they must be thought of as well as the tillers of the soil. Mechanics, tradesmen, merchants, and all other dwellers in towns, though not owning a scrap of land, have a right to see that the territory of our island is not abused, and brought back to that condition which would defraud them of the material of subsistence. Thus small farming, with its want of capital to improve and make the very most of the land, is adverse to the general well-being; and from all that we have heard of old times, is not even advantageous to the parties who conduct it."—*Chambers' Edinburgh Journal*.

EXPERIMENTS WITH MANURES.

BY HERMSTEAD AND SCHUBLER.

Dried leaves and other vegetable matter.....	5 times the seed.
Stable manure.....	7 "
Pigeon dung	9 "
Horse dung.....	10 "
Human urine.....	12 "
Human excrements.....	14 "

Girardin.

Such experiments as the above are far more conclusive and satisfactory answers to inquiries respecting the comparative value of various manures than the theories of scientific men, at least in the present state of our knowledge. Considerable attention having recently been directed to