

garding sewage manures, issued by the General Board of Health. From this account one would have supposed that the proprietor, who himself carried on the farm, under the immediate superintendence of a practical farmer, was about to realise a speedy fortune from his enterprise. We were told that "one field of ray-grass, sown in April, had been cut once, fed off twice with sheep, and was ready (August 20) to be fed off again." In another field, that had yielded within the year four cuttings of the estimated weight of nine or ten tons per acre, the aftermath was valued at £250 per acre, for sheep-feeding purposes. Swedes which had received a supply of liquid manure were ten or twelve days earlier than another lot that had got double the quantity of solid manure without the liquid application, and were better than those in a neighbour's field to which dozens of loads of farm-yard manure had been applied, in addition to 3 cwt. of guano and 16 bush. of bones per acre. Carrots and cabbages were equally susceptible to the fertilizing influence of the liquid manure; and Italian ray-grass sprung up on its application almost like the grass in that remarkable district "down east," where, though it were cropped close at night, you were lost in it by the morning, and where, if you planted carpet-tacks in the evening, they would be tennypenny nails by sunrise. And then the effect of this liquid manuring was by no means evanescent. "There is not the slightest appearance of exhaustion in the land; its fertility appears to increase. I was informed that, before the liquid manure was used, the land would not keep more than a bullock or five sheep to the acre; now it will maintain, if the crops are cut and carried in, five bullocks or twenty sheep to the acre." Somehow or other, the money returns were by no means such as these rapturous accounts of fertility implied. Those magnificent crops, instead of being a source of profit, were singularly the reverse, and the proprietor's banking account, so far as it concerned Myre-Mill grew smaller and smaller every year under the frequent cuttings and tremendous weights of Italian ray-grass. The reason was simple—the cost of production was a question never taken into consideration under this system of very high farming. When it did compel attention some five years ago, Mr. Kennedy deemed it advisable to surrender his farm into the hands of a tenant farmer, who of necessity was bound to count the cost, and the calculation was far from favourable to the practice so extensively and vigorously pursued by his landlord.

Being in Ayreshire the other day, we paid a visit to Myre-Mill, which is situated about a mile from Maybole, a short distance from the public road between that place and Ayr. The steading occupies a considerable elevation, nearly in the centre of the farm, and

possesses an unusual amount of accommodation for a 'arra of between 300 and 400 acres. It is very easy to see that Myre-Mill was built under the influence of much more liberal ideas than such as dictate the erection of farm-steadings for tenant-farmers—that it had been a proprietor's pet place. The byres, barn, granary, stables, store-houses, &c., are on a scale of sufficient magnificence for a farm of double the superficies. But doubtless it was expected that the liquid application would more than double the produce raised by the common method of manuring. The tanks for the reception of the liquid manure from the byres, stables, &c., occupy a great square in front of the root house, from which the ground was excavated, the sides being then solidly built round with stone, after which the hollow space was divided into four unequal compartments by substantial walls. The tanks thus formed measure respectively in feet:—48 × 14 × 12; 48 × 14 × 15; 72 × 14 × 12; 72 × 17 × 12. They are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and each has a separate communication with the well, from which the contents are pumped up. A twelve-horse engine works the pumps, and it is stated that about 4,000 gallons, which is the quantity usually allowed for an acre, can be distributed in an hour. Iron pipes, with hydrants at convenient spots, are laid over the whole of the farm, and with the hose the extent of delivery amounts to about 1,900,000 yards. The cost of this machinery was £1,586, divided as follows:—Tanks, £300; steam engine £150; pumps, £80; iron pipes, laying, and hydrants, £1,000; gutta-percha and distributing pipes, £56. One great drawback is the want of water to mix with the manurial flowings from the courts. This has to be raised a height of 70 feet from a burn flowing through the hollow in front of the steading.

On the day of our visit, however, the tanks were choke full, and water from the steading was allowed to trickle away down the hedge-side into the burn, from which the supply was usually to be derived.

The present tenant, Mr. Duncan, has little faith in the virtue of the application. At all events he does not think that it is worth much more than the cost of its distribution. In washing in guano or other manurial substances into the roots of the plants in dry weather, he believes to be valuable; but in ordinary cases he is of opinion that the money expended in applying it would be as profitably laid out in the purchase and application of solid artificial manures. In order to test the correctness of this notion, Mr. Duncan, when urged upon by the proprietor—who is still a strong believer in liquid manuring, notwithstanding the losses he sustained thereby—to distribute the tank-liquid on one of the out fields, offered, if the landlord would be