

over the drills after the first harrowing or hoeing, which is the American method, or dusting it into the drills before covering the seed. We should likewise certainly expect beneficial results from its application to grass lands, say in the month of May, especially if there is much clover, and the season should happen to be a dry one.

There are still a few points that we should perhaps specially notice, although involved in the preceding explanation, as we observe by referring to our Correspondent's communication that his enquiries are particular regarding them:—

1. The Gypsum should be ground mechanically into a fine powder, not burnt nor boiled in any way. Boiled plaster, if scattered on the soil, will harden into lumps on the first shower of rain.

2. The common or "soft" plaster should be used wherever the fertilizer is expected to act in absorbing moisture.

3. Gypsum is almost always scattered on the surface, in countries where its use is best known.

4. The quantity per acre will depend upon the capacity of the workman. Cover as large a surface as you can with the smallest amount of plaster, leaving enough to be seen as a sprinkling all over the field; not less than a barrel per acre.

5. To loamy and clayey soils it is beneficial in slowly increasing their fertility. To dry, hot, sandy soils it is beneficial immediately in keeping them moist; in the latter case it must be kept on the surface, and applied on approach of the hot season.

6. It is not usual to mix plaster on a farm. The manure merchants mix it with superphosphates, and, being a cheap material, it is profitable to them; to the farmer it is useful in compost heaps.

7. One difficulty is, where is it to be got? We have been told that there is a plaster mill somewhere about Windsor, but we could never find its exact position or owner's name. If he will send his card, with price per barrel, we shall be glad to give a free insertion in our advertising columns.

8. What is the best way of distributing plaster? When a small area is to be plastered, it may be done by hand, like seed-sowing. It is a dirty job, and requires a suit of old clothes. When the area is large, the old method may be adopted of taking the plaster in a cart, the distributor standing with his back to the horse, and to the wind, scattering it by hand over the tail-board. Should the field be uneven, persons passing along will look round to see how often the plasterer scatters himself over the tail-board, or suddenly sits down in the plaster, and rises up again like a miller. The proper method is to use a Plaster Machine, which is a simple modification

of the Horse Seed Sower; this scatters the plaster very evenly, taking a breadth of some ten feet, and moves over the ground as fast as the horse can walk, the man having nothing to do but guide the horse from his sulky seat. In this way there is no spoiling of clothing or annoyance of any kind. As a farmer does not want to use a plaster machine more than one or two or three days in the year, it would be a good arrangement for an Agricultural Society to get a machine that would serve all its members.

As some of the statements we have made are at variance with what has been published by others, we may mention that the account of Plaster in Professor Johnston's great and valuable work on Agricultural Chemistry, is, with some exceptions, a tissue of mistakes.

The "Saffron Walden" of Halifax, will be found on the sunny side of South Street, where there is now in full bloom, during sunshine, the finest display of brilliant blue and white and golden crocuses that has ever been seen in this city.

Messrs. CHASE, of Church Street, Cornwallis, have furnished the following particulars:—Noticing the weights of some cattle in the April *Journal*, we send you the weight of one Ox, calved in Spring of 1870. He weighed on 1st July 1874, 1980 lbs.; January 12, 1875, he weighed 2360 lbs.; March 17, 2510 lbs.; thus gaining 530 lbs. in 8½ months. Also, a pair of Steers, one year old, that weighed, January 12, 1875, one of them 810 lbs., the other 730 lbs. These cattle are Short Horn Durham Stock.

MR. B. W. KILLAM, of Berwick, informs us that the Short Horn Bull advertised by him last month has been purchased by the Mahone Bay Agricultural Society, County of Lunenburg.

THE thirty-first annual competition of the Scottish Pansy Society will take place in the Music Hall, Edinburgh, on 18th June.—A Potato Exhibition is to be held in London in the autumn. The single prizes vary in amount from eight pounds sterling, \$40, to ten shillings, \$2.50.—Mr. Hind, an English florist at Naples, has been murdered; by order, it is believed, of the Secret Society of Market Gardeners there, because he was so successful a cultivator that he could undersell them.—The hundredth Annual Exhibition of the Royal Flora Society of Brussels is to be an International Exhibition of great magnitude, held from 26th April to 4th May; there is likewise to be a Botanical-Horticultural Congress. This intelligence is received in England, as well as in the Netherland, with "consternation and regret," Amsterdam having

priority from long previous notice.—The London Hyacinth Show was held in the Western Arcade in March, and although the Hyacinths were not so good as usual, the display of palms and foliage plants was very fine; fruit limited to grapes, apples and pears, which last were poor. The only vegetables appear to have been mushrooms and sea-kale.—The Manchester Botanical and Horticultural Society's Show, held in the Town Hall on 16th March, is described as magnificent, the principal features being orchids, hyacinths, and cyclamens. Like the lady in Spenser's *Faery Queen*, these beauties "made a sunshine in the shady place."—The Dundee Horticultural Society's Grand Floral Fête will be held in the High School Grounds, Euclid Crescent, Dundee, on 26th, 27th and 28th August. Prizes to the extent of one thousand pounds, \$5000, will be awarded for Plants and Flowers.—We commend to the notice of our enterprising horticulturists the "stra Plant," *Yucca longifolia*, which is surely worth going to Western Texas for. It is an herb, with long sword like leaves, and grows to the height of twenty or twenty-five feet, crowned with a pale yellow flower of "magnificent richness" and "of the dimensions of a flour barrel." Two Texans, being in London, paid fifty cents each to see a wonderful "Century Plant," and to their disgust found it was merely a miserable dwarf of their native Petra.

WE reprint, from the "International Review," a paper by a German Chemist, under the title "Baron Liebig." It is really a concise and most complete and accurate history of the Use of Chemical Manures. We had intended to publish the whole article this month, but our printer has had to stop, for want of space, at that period in the history when Liebig's theory became enveloped in a cloud of most hopeless gloom. Next month we shall give the remainder,—the silver-lining, the clearing away, the full blaze of sunshine.

WITH respect to the anticipated introduction of the Colorado beetle into England, and the scare now in existence on that account, the *Nova Scotia Journal of Agriculture* thinks that the fears are groundless. Our contemporary speaks positively that it knows of Colorado beetles having gone to England in produce, and yet they have not succeeded in establishing themselves; and in Nova Scotia, a great potato growing country, with facilities for importing the insect in produce as freely as Germany or England, no Colorado beetle has ever been seen. This it ascribes to the coolness of the climate. The warmer and drier parts of Europe may suit the 10-line beetle, but, our contemporary conjectures, England will not.—*Canada Farmer*.