Colonial Farmer.

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Correspondence.

For the Colonial Farmer.

RURAL TOPICS.

TIME LOST.

Every farmer knows that *time is money*, or that it may be exchanged for money when properly employed. Thousands of farmers fail to make money solely from a disregard of making a good use of their time. Instead of being up early, and seeing that their hired hands are up, and attending properly to their "chores," many lie in bed an hour later than they ought; and the consequence is, that their hired help, or "the boys" get into the habit of sleeping later than they would, if they knew the "old man" was about, and they often slight their work, as in feeding stock, to make up their lost time, breakfast is later than it would be under other circumstances, and we may estimate, at least, a half an hour lost daily by the whole family, and solely because the overseer of the farm lies in bed too late.

Next comes a loss of time in not keeping the farm implements in good repair, and also in not keeping a surplus of hoes, shovels, plows, &c., so that if anything gets out of order no time need be lost. "Boys," said one of those time-losing farmers, "bring out the horses, we must plow to-day." The horses were harnessed and brought out, and hitched to the plow, when it was discovered that some of the iron-work was broken, and the plow had to be sent to the village to be repaired before any plowing could be done. If this man had owned two plows of each kind used, or of the kinds most used, no delay would have occurred; but the day was lost for any profitable work, and so it is often with farmers who do not so manage that their work shall, under all circumstances, progress orderly and regularly.

Again, a serious loss of time occurs by farmers being always ready to stop their work, and have a talk with neighbors, who are passing along the road. The plowing is stopped, or whatever is being done, and the events that have transpired in the town, State, or United States, for the last month are fully discussed. Sometimes two farmers will meet on the road, and they must stop their horses, and talk, talk, talk; and all of no consequence to anybody. Farmers, treat your neighbors civilly, but don't spend half of your time talking with them, because *time is money*.

ONE THING AT A TIME.

Many farmers are in the habit of making a great fuss over their work, as if they would accomplish wonders; but they effect very little, owing to their getting many things commenced, and then "switch off" to something else, without finishing anything. That is not the way to make money on a farm or anywhere else, but you should make a point to finish what you commence before you go to other work, unless something occurs to prevent your doing so. You should think ahead, so to speak, and thus prevent any delays in your work. For instance, a certain field is to be plowed, in which are clumps of bushes too large to be plowed up easily with an ordinary team. Now, before you commence plowing this field, the bushes should be cut, then put in a heavy plow, with a double team of oxen, if you have them, and plow up the roots, so that when you plow the field no delay may occur. This is a mere illustration of how to do work to the best advantage, in the many cases that occur on a farm. There is a great waste of time in going from one job unfinished to another; and for this reason you should never call off your hired help from what they are doing till they have done it. The men dislike to work for those who are in the habit of calling them here and there without a good reason, and soon lose all interest in such men's success. "One thing at a time, and that well done," should be the farmer's motto. In all my extensive observations among the farmers of this county, I never saw a really prosperous one, who did *not* act on that principle. It is the sheet-anchor of success in every avocation, and especially to farmers. "John," said a farmer to his hired man, "the day is gone, and what have we accomplished? We have been busy all day, but I can't see that we have done much." "No," replied John, "we have not done much, for the reason that we commenced a half a dozen things and *finished nothing*."

A CHEAP SMOKE HOUSE.

Dig a narrow pit from twelve to eighteen inches deep, throwing the earth all out on one side. From near the bottom of this pit dig a trench of sufficient length to hold one or two joints of stove-pipe, at such an angle as will bring the end away from the pit to the surface of the ground. Over the end of this pipe set a common flour barrel or large cask, as may be needed, and, having removed both heads, bank up around it with loose earth so that no smoke can escape at the bottom. Hang the hams, etc., in it, using some round sticks to run through the strings. Putting a cover on the sticks will leave space enough for draught to let the smoke pass freely. Build a smoke fire of corn cobs, damp hard wood or sawdust, in the pit, and you will have a cheap, safe and efficient smoke-house with very little trouble.

THE VALUE OF COW DUNG.

Farmers are apt to undervalue the dung that is made, or, can be made, from their cattle. It has often been estimated that a cow produces forty pounds of excrement, and twelve pounds of urine daily, when stabled or yarded, and well fed. Let us see what the value of these excrements are when both are saved. When cattle are well bedded, the most of the urine is absorbed by the bedding; and those who are accustomed to clean stables, I think, will admit that in twenty-four hours what dung is removed from each cow, with the saturated straw, is not less than fifty pounds, amounting in 265 days to 18,250 pounds. When this dung is thrown into a heap in the yard, and exposed to the rains, which are a benefit, if the heaps are made compact, the weight increases, say one-third, making the weight when used on crops 24,333 pounds, or about twelve two-horse wagon loads, and worth to any farmer not less than $24. This, I claim, is a fair valuation of the manure of a cow in a year, when kept stabled, or yarded, where all of her excrements can be saved, and which may be saved on the soiling, or green feed plan. But these estimates are below, perhaps, what they ought to be, as no farmer, probably, would be willing to sell all the manure made from a cow, or an ox, from November to May for less than $20, because he could not replace it for less money, and it would be worth that sum to use on his farm. In brief, the manure of a cow will about pay for her feed, unless highly fed on meal, etc.; and in that case, its value is much increased, as the real value of manure depends on the quality of the feed given to animals.

GRADE FOR DRAINS.

Procure a carpenter's level; have it tested to be certain that it indicates correctly. A "straight-edge," some twelve or fifteen feet long, should be secured, with convenient hand-holes for carrying. Begin at the outlet and drive a couple of stakes into the soil so that they will stand solidly, leaving a projection of five or six feet above the surface. To this fasten the "staight edge" perfectly level. Now, by looking along the top of this in the direction your ditch is to be dug, you can, by driving a stake at a convenient distance, make exactly the level. By measuring from the top of the "straight-edge" to the bottom of the ditch, and then from the mark on the line-stake, you can tell exactly how much fall there is and how deep to dig your ditch. By repeating this operation at every turn there will be no difficulty in afterwards digging a ditch that will be as near a perfect level as the circumstances require. The grade will depend altogether upon the land which is to be drained. It is best, where the drains have considerable fall, to run them diagonally across the slope, as where the fall is too great the water often washed away the ground from around the tiles.

HOG MANURE.

"Make arrangements to save every particle of manure from the hog pens, liquid and solid. It is too valuable to lose. Every hundred pounds of such manure—liquid and solid mixed—is estimated to equal in value about one hundred and sixty pounds of common farm-yard manure. It is good for all crops and is especially suited to fruit trees. Nothing is better to preserve its virtues than swamp muck or dry earth. Use it freely, covering the floor of the pen at night and cleaning out in the morning, after which the floor should be sprinkled again. It is not only good for the manure but for the swine. Generally the hog pen is the most offensive spot on the farm, during the fattening season. A little dry earth judiciously used every day would dispose of all unpleasant odors."

HOOF ROT IN CATTLE.

"The remedy usually adopted is to put a rope between the hoofs and saw it back and forth until the putrid matter is wholly removed and the blood starts pretty freely. This is a cruel and inhuman practice. I would just as soon advise a man to put a rope between his toes and saw it back and forth until the blood starts, to cure corns. The best remedy is to thoroughly cleanse the affected parts with warm water and soap and then apply warm tar between the hoofs. In very bad cases there will be a large core come out—remove it carefully with the thumb and finger; cleanse the cavity as above with soap and water and then fill it with warm tar. Keep the parts thoroughly tarred even if necessary to use a bandage. Keep the animal in a clean dry pasture. It is no more liable to affect the whole system than any other ulcer. When once cured there is no danger of its appearing again unless from the same cause."

Miscellaneous.

About Nitrogen.

Nitrogen is commercially the most valuable fertilizing element. It occurs in various forms or states.—Organic nitrogen is the nitrogen of animal and vegetable matters generally, existing in the albumin and fibrin of meat and blood, in the uric acid of bird dung, in the urea and hippuric acid of urine, and in a number of other substances. Some forms of organic nitrogen, as that of blood and meat, are highly active as fertilizers; others, as that of hair and leather, are comparatively slow in their effect on vegetation, unless these matter are reduced to a fine powder, or chemically disintegrated. Ammonia and nitric acid are the results of the decay of organic nitrogen in the soil and manure heap, and are the most active forms of nitrogen. They occur in commerce—the formen in sulphate of ammonia, the latter in nitrate or soda. Seventeen parts of ammonia contain fourteen parts of nitrogen —*Report of the Connecticut Experiment Station.*

Tar Water for Insects.

For the last five years I have not lost a cucumber or melon, vine or cabbage plant. Get a barrel, with a few gallons of gas tar in it; pour water on the tar; always have it ready when needed, and when the bugs appear give them a liberal drink of the tar-water from a garden sprinkler, or otherwise, and if the rain washes it off and they return, repeat the dose. It will also destroy the Colorado potato beetle, and frighten the old long potato bug worse than a threshing with a brush. Five years ago this summer, both kinds appeared on my late potatoes, and I watered with the tar-water. The next day all Colorados that had not been well protected from the sprinkling were dead, and others, though their name was legion, were all gone, and I have never seen one of them on the farm since. I am aware that many will look upon this with indifference, because it is so cheap and simple a remedy. Such should always feel both their own and their neighbors' bugs, as they frequently do.—*Chicago Tribune.*

The Feed of Dairy Cows.

Theory or even analysis is not always conclusive regarding the proper food for different cows, but in connection with watchfulness and close investigation on the part of the dairyman they will correct many errors and shortcomings in present feeding. It is true, beyond a certain limit, principally determined by the breed and disposition of a cow, any additional food tends to fatten the animal instead of conducing to an increasing yield of milk. Although some cows produce more milk than others, even from the same food, yet no cow can make desirable milk without a proper supply of food, while an insufficient supply of nutritious food will be invariably followed by a falling off in their milk-producing powers. Undoubtedly the fitness of milk for special purposes may to some extent be controlled by altering the proportions of the constituents of the food supplied to the cows. Let each dairyman determine in future to learn the facts regarding the yield of his cows, and the effect of different varieties of feeding stuffs on the product, and a great advance will be secured in individual property as well as national wealth.—*American Cultivator.*

DUCK HOUSE.—A correspondent of the New York *Tribune* says:

A shelter for ducks should be built separately from the chicken-house. It should not be higher than five feet at the front, sloping to three feet in the rear. It should be surrounded with a fence of small pickets, about eighteen inches in length. The nest should be very low; a basin scooped out of the ground makes a very good nest, which is only to be used for laying, as it is best to let hens hatch the eggs. A duck will lay a much larger number of eggs if each one is removed from the nest as soon as deposited.

That the eggs may readily be taken away, the nests should be made at the front of the house and one of the boards hung upon hinges, so that it may be swung on one side and the eggs picked up. There are no better ducks than the Rouen, which grow rapidly to a large size. Ducks should not be admitted into that part of the garden where young cabbage or lettuce is planted; anywhere else they not only do no mischief, but destroy numerous insects, and disturb many more by their constant active movements.

Sunflower Seed for Fowls.

We have, for years been aware of the value of sunflower seed in the fall of the year, and in winter time, too, as a food for fowls. This plant should be grown by every poultry-grower in the country who has the opportunity to raise only a few stalks, even. For its properties for glossing the plumage of exibibition birds are altogether remarkable. Buckwheat, properly fed will operate similarly; but the latter is, by far, too heating in its nature in comparison with the other.

This plant is a very gross grower, but it yields wondrously, and may be set in any soil where other fruits or vegetables cannot be conveniently raised—for example, along the sides of fences, or anywhere where the soil is not easily cultivated as in the open fields. If given a good chance—as other grains have—it will grow luxuriantly, and will well repay its care; for its yield is many hundred-fold, under ordinary cultivation.

The great "Russian sunflower" is a new thing with us, in this country, and a marvellous improvement upon the old-style seed. The flowers are double the average dimensions of the common South American variety, so well known among us, and as a bearer, it far excels the latter in the number of large seeds it ripens upon its more expanding and heavier stalks.

The Russian sunflower is, to the American, what stalk and ear of the field-maize are to the pop-corn variety, in ordinary culture.

Method of Utilizing Bones.

The utility of raw bones is much circumscribed by the difficulty of bringing them into a fit state for use. A rough method of cracking them, or reducing them to large fragments by means of a heavy pounder or sledge, may be employed where they are intended for use in an orchard or vineyard, where they may be buried at the roots of a permanently established fruit tree. But to become useful to annual crops they must be brought to a more practicable shape. When coarsely broken they may be reduced by caustic lye more slowly but with much less inconvenience than by sulphuric acid. To accomplish this, a rough but tight box, not over eighteen inches deep, is needed. Procure sound, unleached wood ashes, mix a peck of slaked lime and a peck of sal-soda to every barrel of dry ashes. Pack the ashes, etc., with the bones in layers (ashes first) until the box is filled. Saturate the mass with water, and add from time to time more water to preserve a constant state of moisture. In four or six weeks the bones will have become so much softened that they will crumble to powder with a slight blow. The mass may then be mixed up and beaten fine with a shovel, and an equal quantity of fine soil added and thoroughly intermingled. This compost is too strong for direct application to the seed, and in using it for corn some earth needs to be mixed with it previously. If the quantity of ashes is increased the process is proportionately hastened.

Novel Mode of Slaughtering Animals.

"The slaughtering of animals, with the view of rendering the operation instantaneous and as free from pain as possible, has repeatedly engaged attention, and various plans have been brought forward for this purpose. The latest experiment of the kind, and certainly one of a novel nature, has been described in the *Field* as having been made at Mr. Bruton's Horse Slaughtering Establishment, Redhill, Dudley, by Mr. Thomas Johnson, agent for Noble's Explosives Company, Glasgow. A short time ago Mr. Johnson made several experiments with dynamite, placing a quantity about the size of a thimble on the forehead of the bulls and horses to be slaughtered, and exploding it in the ordinary way with a safety-fuse and detonator. The cattle were instantly killed on the explosion taking place and only required bleeding. Last week the experiments were repeated the charges being exploded by electricity. On this occasion two large horses and one donkey (disabled for work) were drawn up in line about half a yard apart. A small primer of dynamite, with an electric fuse attached, was then placed on each of their foreheads and fastened in position by a piece of string under the jaw; the wires were then coupled and attached to the electric coil. When the circuit was completed, the three charges were exploded simultaneously, the whole of the animals falling dead without a struggle. The rapidity of the experiment seemed for a moment to astonish the bystanders, who were taken by surprise at the suddenness of the effect and the efficient manner in which it destroyed the animals."—*Irish Farmers' Gazette.*

Beans for Horses.

The Secretary of the American Institute Farmers' Club, speaking of beans for horses, said that they form a striking illustration of the principle that the nourishing or strengthening effects of the different articles of food depend more on some peculiar property which they possess, or some combination which they form, than on the actual quantity of nutritive matter. Beans contain but 578 parts of 1,000 of nutritive matter, yet they add materially to the vigor of the horse. They are many horses that will not stand hard work without beans being mixed with their food. Observant travelers have discovered the difference of spirit and continuance of their animals in proportion as they allow or deny them beans on their journey. They are of great assistance to the hardworked coach horse; washy horses could not get through this work without them, and old horses would die under the task imposed upon thim. Beans afford not merely a temporary stimulus, but they may be used daily without losing their power or producing exhaustion. They should not be used whole or split, but crushed. Some persons use chaff with beans, instead of oats. With hardworked horses this might be allowed, but in general beans without oats are too binding and stimulating. Beans should be at least twelve months old before they are given to the horse, and care should be taken to prevent them from getting damp and mouldy, which will at least disgust the animal if they do not harm him. Then, too mouldy beans harbor an insect which destroy the inner part of the bean. When converted into meal beans are good for fattening hogs.

Fattening Hogs.

The season has now arrived for farmers to commence fattening their hogs for market, and the question naturally arises whether it is cheaper to fatten them with that nutritious food, corn, or to sell the corn. Experiments have proven that choice breeds of pigs, the Chester Whites, for instance, will increase in weight at the rate of eight and one-half pounds for every bushel of corn fed them. So at the present prices of eight cents per pound for pigs on the hoof and sixty cents per bushel for corn, it would be more remunerative to use it as food. Care, however, must be taken to give it at regular intervals while the comforts of the animals must be looked after. Clean, dry, pens are always the most conducive to the health and growth of pigs. Neglected pens and careless, irregular feeding will prevent the animals attaining the weight they otherwise would. In converting the usual portions into sausage, scrapple and pudding, only those animals of moderate weight should be used. One of the most successful manufacturers of these compounds in this, city, who has made a fortune at the business, tells us that he never kills a hog weighing over three hundred pounds. He prefers those weighing from 150 to 200. They are the most profitable. He seldom slaughters any but Chester Whites. He buys wherever he can and usually feeds on corn from five to six weeks before killing. As a rule the sausage sold in our city markets is too fat, and when fried or broiled shrivels to about one third its natural size. If animals of moderate weight were used the products would be more satisfactory to the consumers and more profitable to the sellers.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

Winter Care of Sheep.

Sheep are looking up. The tide has turned. But unless sheep are to be taken up as a permanent part of the farm stock and proper care and attention given to them, it would be better for the farmer to let them alone. Sheep properly cared for, are the most profitable and least troublesome farm stock; but if neglected and improperly managed, none so soon become out of condition and become diseased and die. Winter is the most trying time for them. "Coddling" is the most hurtful thing. With good feed a flock of sheep would do better to lie out of doors in the snow the whole winter, than to be kept in a close, warm stable. Running at the nose and lung disease will surely follow too close penning up. Unless the weather is stormy, or the ewes with lamb are near their time, they should be turned into a field every day. They should have fresh water (access to a spring is best) at least once every day. It is a mistake to suppose that sheep will thrive with snow for drink, and yet many flocks are permitted thus to quench their thirst every day through the winter. Clover hay is the best standard feed, with half a pint of oats, rye, or buckwheat daily. Sheep do better with a little change in their feed occasionally. Salt, in which a fourth part of sulphur is mingled, should be placed where they can always have access to it. Corn-stalks may do as a coarse feed to pick amongst, but as a standard feed it does not seem palatable enough for them. They will live on it but do not thrive. Separate the flock into at least two portions. The lambs, and in-lamb ewes which may be weakly, should, at all events, be taken from the strong, hearty ewes, wethers and bucks, and extra care given to them.

It is still better to keep the bucks and wethers by themselves, and thus make three divisions. Guard against dogs, which, at this season, are more than ever mischievous. If a dog is kept on the farm, let him be well acquainted with the flock and they with him. Above all things, be patient, quiet, attentive, and exactly regular in feeding and watering, not overfeeding nor stinting the flesh, but, having found the right way, persevere therein, and do not swerve one way or the other from it. One can not neglect his sheep one day and make up by extra care the next.

Crib Biting.

Crib-biting is a peculiar propensity, which is regarded as a decided vice because, when the habit becomes confirmed, it is attended by very disagreeable symptoms. In highly-fed horses that have little to do, it is often the result of an idle habit. A great many think lightly of it, unless the horse be much addicted to it; but, although it might do no mischief in a slight degree, it must yet be remembered that it is always increasing by little and little, until in time the most insignificant becomes the most determined crib-biter. A cribber is always known by the worn aspect of the outer edges of the front teeth; and this is not from a fair way of biting, but rather pressing or rubbing the edge of the teeth, either of the upper or lower jaw, or both, against any hard object, especially the manger, as the most convenient spot. Crib-biting consists in swallowing air. The animal takes hold of the manger, or some other fixture, with his front teeth, fixes his head, curves his neck, dilates the upper part of the gullet, and gulps over the air, making a grunting sort of noise. This practice usually interferes with a horse's endurance. It is true that crib-biters have been known to live to a good old age, and without appearing to suffer any inconvenience from the habit; but these, for the most part, were horses of slow work. It is well enough known that the majority are apt to fill the stomach and bowels with air to such an extent as to impair digestion, impede the breathing, and produce frequent attacks of colic. Old crib-biters that have much work are generally lean, and have a dry, staring coat. Whatever may be the nature of the act, there is soon evidence of a dyspeptic state, as the abdomen swells. In some cases the evils attending the vice are not so great. In course of time the gullet becomes thin and distorted; and from the irregularity in the width of the passage choking is sometimes favoured. The simplest way to cure a cribbiter is to do away with the manger, or to cover the manger, or any object against which the horse can crib, with sheet-iron, or fresh sheepskin, which may be smeared with aloes. By placing straps around the throat, which is often done, and thus pressing on the wind-pipe, the animal is stopped from this bad practice; but this is attended with the danger of producing distortion and constriction of the air passage, rendering the animal an incurable roarer.—*Prairie Farmer.*

Wintering Bees.

How shall we winter our bees successfully? This is a problem that apiarists have been endeavoring to solve for many years. Houses, cellars, pits, green-houses, and manure heaps, have all had their day; none of them answering the requirements perfectly, as safe repositories. The method recommended by G. H. Townley, of Tompkins, Michigan, is the most fashionable at the present time. His plan has been tried by many apiarists, and pronounced a success. It is to protect the bees with a covering of chaff, and leave them out of doors. Some of our southern apiarists say, that they have been chaffed to death the last year, with hearing so much about this chaff business; but we at the North will not mind the chaffing, if we can only protect our little pets, in such a way, that they will survive the winter's cold, and enlive our May morning, with their happy hum. I'm now making my bees bedding; in order to keep their ticks clean, and from propolis I've purchased white duck for sheets, costing twenty cents per yard. Indian head muslin would have been cheaper, but they might eat it through. When the sheets are all cut out, and whipped around to keep them from travelling, I'll make ticks; as the ticks are to have the duck between them and the bees, any sort of material, that will hold chaff, will answer the purpose. Old grain sacks, or old calico will do very well—but if we expect them not to go out of fashion, we might as well make them of good material, so they will last for years. Each hive will need three cushions, and to have them nice, a band should go clear around, that the edge instead of being sharp, may be square, making a shallow box as it were, of cloth before the chaff is put in. Those which are to be put in on the sides I'll make of the size to fit nicely, when one frame is removed—tacking it through and through, so it will be of the same thickness. Those that are to go on top should be a foot thick, and fit nicely into the cap—so that when the bees are tucked up in their winter's bed, there will be no crack for cold draughts—for bees are as sensitive to cold draughts as a rheumatic. Mr. Townley says: "I am not very particular about the kind of chaff used, but after having tried wheat, oat, and buckwheat, and clover, I prefer the first named, as it does not get wet or damp as easily, either from rain or by dampness from the cluster of bees." I shall fix up my bees for the winter as soon as possible, having the entrances small in front and giving plenty of ventilation above the cushions, so thet there may be no dampness. The truth in a nut-shell, with regard to wintering bees, appears to be this: confine the bees to as small a space as they can crowd into, with plenty of food, pure air, warmth and dryness.—*Mrs. L. Harrison, Prairie Farmer.*

The London Standard on the Sale of Canadian Short-horns in England.

It was quite anticipated that Mr. Cochrane's consignment of Shorthorns from Canada would be one of the most sensational sales of the year; but Mr. Thornton, who sold the cattle on Monday, could scarcely have imagined that 4,300 guineas would be reached for one animal. The stock sold on Tuesday was shipped on the 17th of August from Montreal, and after a ten days' passage they looked uncommonly well, thus proving that their constitutions were hardy. The sale brought out all the principal breeders of Short-horns, Earl [illegible] of Bective, Lord Skelmersdale, Lord Faversham, Sir W. Salt, Sir John Swinbourne, &c. The animals sent over consisted of a number of first-class specimens of the Booth blood and of the Bates, the latter of which were decidedly most in favor at present. The first animal brought into the ring was Vernal Star, a cow of eleven years of age. She is a beautiful red and white that keeps her age remarkably well. She rose very rapidly to 450 guineas, at which price she was knocked down to Mr. Darling of Shropshire. White Rose was bought by the Rev. Mr. Staniforth, after a spirited competition, for 400 guineas. This was a beautifully modelled white cow, and so was also the red and white Bright Lady, that fell to Mr. Torr, M. P., for 330 guineas. When Vesper Star came into the ring there was quite a sensation. She is a charming red and white cow, full of flesh, and betokens a good milker. From 100 guineas, which were bidden, she rapidly rose to 1,000 guineas, at which sum the sand-glass ran down, amid cheers, to Mr. Crosby of Kerry, Ireland. There was less animation in the next lots, yet still several of the cattle went from over 200 guineas to 800 guineas. When the third Duchess of Hillhurst stepped majestically into the ring there was a moment's pause, until 1,000 guineas were offered, and Mr. Lodor at last claimed her as his own at 4,100 guineas, amid great applause. Mr. Thornton declaring her to be the highest priced cow in England. Lord Bective, however, had his revenge when the Fifth Duchess of Hillhurst came into the ring. At once a thousand guineas was offered, capped immediately by 500 more. Then 3,000, 3,300, and Lord Bective, in defiance of all other competition, bid 1,000 guineas advance upon his own previous bid, and secured her for 4,300 guineas, which is, with the exception of the Duchess of Geneva, sold in New York two or three years ago, for 7,000 guineas, the highest price ever given. After these prices it was thought that the Second Duke of Hillhurst, a magnificent specimen of the Short-horn breed, would have made more than 800 guineas; but he did not, and at this price he fell to Mr. Longman. The sale in every respect was a highly successful one, representing in the grand total £17,150, the average of 37 cows, heifers and calves being over £420, and of eight bulls £2,400.

Coal Ashes in the Garden.

It has been long known that coal ashes have the effect of mellowing the soil, particularly clay. A rigid clay may thus be greatly improved in its texture. It has been held that the fertilizing properties of coal ashes are small—repeated analyses have shown this. Yet, used as they have been here in gardens, without other manure, the effect has been such as to lead irresistibly to the conclusion that they develop in some way a considerable amount of fertility. All cannot be accounted for by the mechanical improvement, as in cases where this is not lacking the effect is still present, and apparently undiminished, if not sometimes increased—in this case acting seemingly as wood ashes do, requiring other (organic) fertility to aid, if full results would be obtained.

I was surprised, early in the season, on seeing unusually thrifty tomatoes and beans, to learn that the only manure used was coal ashes, scattered in the garden to get them out of the way. This was practised for several years, and no manure other than this had been used. I was shown another garden to-day which was treated exactly in the same way, the only dressing being coal ashes. Here the growth seemed all that it could be. I was shown a potato grown here that weighed one pound eleven ounces and a half. It was the Early Vermont, a variety not noted, I believe, for its large specimens. But they were all large, averaging from half a pound to a pound; no small ones among them, and many exceeding a pound. They were planted fifteen inches apart in the rows, a small potato dropped in each hill. The owner of this garden lays the success to the coal ashes, and says there can hardly be any mistake about it. This is the opinion of others also. My own experience is confirmatory. But the effect I find is not immediate. It is more tardy than with wood ashes, whose potash and soda act promptly.

I would advise by all means that coal ashes, instead of being thrown away, be used in our gardens, removing the coarser parts; also on potato ground, always mixing well with the soil, and as early as the ground will admit, and to be repeated yearly, giving this time for effect upon the soil. I find the best success where the ashes have been applied for several years. The second year is sure to tell, even when thrown upon the ground and left to lie there undisturbed, as I have abundant evidence. But the place for full action is in the soil.

I should have stated that in the second garden mentioned where the ashes were omitted, as was the case with a small space, there was a uniform lack in the growth, both in the size of the vines and the tubers. About a quarter of the soil of this garden was composed of ashes. In places where the proportion of ashes was greatest the largest tubers were raised. There is no doubt of the general benefit of coal ashes in a garden, and their decided effect upon the tomato and potato family. They doubtless affect more or less favorably all plants, in the improved texture of the soil, which most of our old cultivated fields need. Add to this their known manurial properties which science has pointed out, little though they be, and there is no reason why coal ashes should not be used on our land, to say nothing of what may seem an occult influence when they are put in union with the fertility of the soil, resulting thus, as appears to me, in an increased growth. I have faith in the discarded coal ashes, and I am using them to advantage.—*Country Gentleman.*

AN EMINENT PHYSICIAN of large experience who has made Pulmonary Consumption a specialty, says that "although in the worst and most rapid forms of the disease, we have still to confess that medicine is almost powerless, yet, in those less overwhelming, and in those more chronic, *which happily constitute the far greater number of cases* we have been able to adduce many proofs that much may be done to mitigate, to prevent, to retard—aye, and even to arrest and, cure this most destructive of human maladies." His experience of fifty years leads him to assert that the "great remedy, more essential and more effectual than any other, is Cod Liver Oil. *But who can take it?* Robinsen's Phosphorized Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil with Lacto-Phosphate of Lime, contains all the virtues of Cod Liver Oil, in a form most desirable to obtain its fullest effects. *Anybody can take it!*

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