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Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se filaginant, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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Agricultural Journal.

Green Manuring, or the application of Vegetable Matter in the green State.—Johnston, in his lectures on the applications of Chemistry and Geology has a very long and able article on the above subject, but as it is too long for insertion entire we shall endeavor to give the practical results to which the writer arrives, from which the reader will be able to draw such conclusions as cannot fail to be profitable to him, provided he acts up to the advice which those results would impress upon his mind. These results are,

1. That the ploughing in of grass vegetables on the spot where they have grown may be followed as a method of manuring and enriching all land, where other manures are less abundant. Growing plants bring up from beneath, as far as their roots extend, those substances which are useful to vegetation—and retain them in their leaves and stems. By ploughing in the whole plant we restore to the surface what had previously sunk to a greater or less depth, and thus make it more fertile than before the green crop was sown.

2. This manuring is performed with the least loss by the use of vegetables in the green state. By allowing them to decay in the open air, there is a loss both of organic and inorganic matter if they be converted into fermented (farmyard) manure there is also a large loss; and the same is the case if they are employed in feeding stock, with a view of their conversion into manure. *In no other form can the same crop convey to the soil an equal amount of enriching matter as in that of green leaves and stems.* Where the first object, therefore, in the farmer's practice is so to use his crops as to enrich his land—he will soonest effect it by ploughing them in the green state.

3. Another important result is, that the beneficial action is almost immediate. Green vegetables decompose rapidly, and thus the first crop which follows a green manuring is benefitted and increased by it. But partly for this reason also the green manuring—of grain cropped land—if aided by no other manure, must, generally be repeated every second year.

4. It is said that grain crops which succeed a green manuring are never laid—and that the produce in grain is greater in proportion to the straw, than when manured with fermented dung.

But it is deserving of separate consideration, that green manuring is especially adapted for improving and enriching soils which are poor in vegetable matter. The principles, which living plants draw a part of their sustenance from the air must be admitted, and add to their value as fertilizers. Living plants contain in their substance not only all they have drawn from the soil, but also a great part of what they have drawn from the air. Plough in these living plants, and you necessarily add to the soil more than was taken from it,

in other words you make it rich in organic matter. Repeat the process with a second crop and it becomes richer still—and it would be difficult to define the limit beyond which the process could be no further carried. Is there any soil which is beyond the reach of this improving process. Those only are so on which plants refuse to grow at all, or on which they grow so languidly as to extract from the air no more than is restored to it again by the natural decay of the organic matter which the soils already contain.

But for those plants which grow naturally upon the soil, agricultural skill may substitute others, which will increase more rapidly and produce a large quantity of green leaves and stems for the purpose of being buried in the soil. Hence, the selection of particular crops for the purpose of giving manuring—those are obviously the fittest, which, in the given soil and climate, grow most rapidly, or which produce the largest quantities of vegetable matter in the shortest time and at the smallest cost.

The plants enumerated by Professor Johnston as best adapted to the purposes of green manuring, are, 1. Spurry: 2. Pulse: 3. The Vetch: 4. Buckwheat: 4. Rape: 6. Rye: 7. Turnips: 8. Borage: 9. Red Clover: 10. Old Grass Swards.

We have for years endeavored to impress upon such of our readers as had not the means of obtaining a sufficient quantity of animal and vegetable manures from their stock to manure their fields, how important it was that they should plough in green crops, and we are the more pleased to find that our views, so often advanced are so ably sustained by the opinions and experience of so distinguished a man as Professor Johnston. We have heretofore recommended the Buck-wheat should be sowed for the purpose of being ploughed in whenever lands were poor and its owner had not manure at hand to improve it. We recommended buckwheat because of the quickness of its growth, and the largeness of its leaf enabling it to appropriate to itself a very considerable portion of those nutritive gases which abound in the air, and form large portions of the food of plants.

We defer to no man in our estimate of the great value—the paramount importance—of lime to every soil calculated to produce vegetables; but still we have always thought that all soils require besides mineral substances those of vegetable and animal matter also, to make them partake of the highest elements of fertilization. We would not be understood as supposing that one of buckwheat turned in would be equal to a full dressing of rich stable or barn yard manure—but we do maintain that two crops turned in just as the plant comes into flower would be equal to a very heavy dressing of any putrescent manure which could be applied. And upon the score of cheapness, we know of none where the party has to buy, that can compare with it; and then, when properly and evenly sowed, green manure has this advantage, from the equal distribution of the vegetable matter over the entire field, there

is an equality of fertility in all its parts, a thing most desirable, as every practical farmer will readily admit.

In conclusion, let us most respectfully advise all who may have exhausted lands, and who may not have the means of procuring a supply of other putrescent matters, to make arrangements to sow and plough in a crop or two of buckwheat. Should they use lime or ashes in connection with the green-ley, so much the better the more prompt and decided will be its efficacy. Man requirerh bread as well as meat, and the earth requires vegetable as well as mineral substances.—*Baltimore American Farmer.*

FINE CATTLE.

At the suggestion of some of our readers who have recently embarked in the current improvements and who have not had the means of collecting the best information, we have concluded to give a few essays in reference to the various kinds of stock and their management. No experienced farmer will deny, that the best breeds of animals are worthy a hundred per cent. more to any one who has use for domestic creatures (and who has not?) than the miserable scrubs of the country. The first question then to be determined is, the breeds of cattle most suitable for all the purposes of the husbandman. As the object should not be beef, or milk alone, or oxen alone, such animals should be selected as will be best adapted to all purposes. We could not consider the best beef animal, the best for milk or beef, and so we may say of both the other varieties.

With regard to beef, no one will contend that any breed of cattle compares with the genuine short horn Durhams. They mature early, attain a large size, and afford a mixture of lean and fat beef unequalled. Several gentlemen who have experimented in the neighborhood for years, think Durhams for beef are worth from 50 to 100 per cent. more than other breeds. Of the truth of this no one can doubt who has examined the massive form of these inimitable animals.

But because a breed of cattle are superior for beef, it is not positive evidence, good milkers can be found. Indeed, it is rarely if ever the case, that the best stock for beef are at all superior for other purposes. The experienced eye will very readily determine the form requisite for every purpose.

1. **Form for beef Cattle.** The head is usually short and thick, the neck short, and enlarging as it enters the body, the shoulders should be thick, the bosom wide, and brisket deep; the ribbing should be good, that is, projecting almost horizontally from the back bone; the back should be broad; the hips wide; and hind quarter heavy, and the legs of most thrifty animals are short, and well shaped.

2. **The form of working Cattle,** differs materially from the above. The head, neck, body, legs, and all the parts pretty nearly should be larger, and the frame work should be lighter; but a firm round body,

straight, neat, and strong limbs are indispensable. The chest of any animal of good constitution should be capacious.

3. **The form of Milch Cattle,** is every thing, and yet few have made themselves good judges. In selecting a milker, take one, with a tolerably long head, round, small, neat muzzle thin jaws, narrow face, pleasant countenance, delicate horns, thin neck and shoulders, light fore quarters, straight back, wide hips, thin thighs, delicate, short legs, light tail, and above all things choose an animal with a rich yellow loose skin—a skin in which you may roll up your hands, and it be a comfort to the creature.

Some amateurs consider color not an inconsiderable item in a milker, and it cannot be doubted, color is a distinguishing characteristic of the purest Durhams. To be sure, some affirm "color is nothing," but as lightly as it may be esteemed, color serves no unimportant part with both man and beast. It is said a first rate racer was never black, and we are pretty certain dun and pale sorrels are not usually the most durable, and we are as certain genuine Durham cattle, are neither black, nor dun; but always white, roan, red and white, or reds. Rarely we think are there pure reds amongst the Durhams; though red and whites is common, but the strawberry roans and milk whites are the fashionable colors, and few persons of good taste prefer any others.

In relation to the milking qualities of Durhams, it cannot be affirmed their greatest excellency consists, in their superabundance or quality of their milk. Still we are far from admitting they are inferior to other breeds for milk. Some families of Durhams have the proper shape, skin, &c. for milch kind, and when this is the case, they are unequalled. An objecter may say, they must have rich pasture, or they cannot yield much milk. So must scrubs; but is it not asserting too much to say, Durhams give as much beef or milk in proportion to the food they consume, as any other breeds. Some families of the common stock, crossed by the Durhams produce large, thrifty, well shaped animals, and such as will profitable to every farmer. For deep milkers, select a head of the finest limbed, best shaped common cows, and cross by a Durham bull of the proper dimensions, and very good stock may be expected. In all these matters, judgment, and experience are essential. As to general management of cattle, our views may be expected in future.—*Tennessee Agriculturist.*

CURE FOR SPAVIN.

The following I have found would cure a bone spavin in its first stage, if properly applied. Add to two spoonsful of melted lard, one of the cantharides, made fine pulverised and a lump of corrosive sublimate, pulverised, as large as a pea—all melted up together, and apply once a day till used up, confining it to the callous. This quantity is for one leg, and may be relied on as a cure. It will make a sore, and the joint will be much weakened while applying the medicine.