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Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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Agricultural Journal.

From the Cultivator.

TREES FOR SHELTER AND ORNAMENT.

It is a great defect in our American management, that there is a too indiscriminate destruction of forest trees. It is the general practice to sweep off every thing, leaving the ground as bare and desolate as the deserts of Arabia. This is bad policy in more than one respect. First, it destroys the beauty of the grounds, which should never be done unnecessarily; for there is as much reason in allowing the eye the gratification of viewing agreeable objects, as there is in permitting the gratification of any other sense. This is a matter too much overlooked. A taste for the beautiful, properly regulated, should be indulged and cultivated. Too many of our people seem to be almost totally ignorant of this principle, and consequently, one of the chief sources of human happiness, is to them a sealed book.

Second, in this climate, subject as it is to extreme heat and cold, the preservation and growth of trees, either as shade or shelter, becomes an important pecuniary object. Pastures and fields should be as much as possible protected against bleak winds, by dense plantations of trees. Suitable trees should also be left in proper places for shade. An animal exposed in an open pasture to the scorching heat of midsummer, suffers great misery, and cannot be made to yield milk or take on flesh. Horses, in such situations, soon become poor, and sheep sometimes die from such exposure.

All steep side hills should be left in trees—they need not be left very thick—the best way is to leave them thick enough to make what are called in the west, wood or grove pastures. If the ground is smoothed a little, grass seed may be sown, and a fine sward will be soon formed. If the ground is natural to grass, it will soon become swarded without sowing any seed. These places will thus produce a good deal of feed—the grass will keep the land from washing—the trees serve for shade, and ultimately for fuel. All gorges, gulleys, &c. should be left in trees, or planted with them; they will frequently produce a good growth of wood, but will bear nothing else, and if the trees are destroyed, the land is soon cut up and washed away by rains. Managed in the right way, these steep side hills and gulleys serve to give interest and even beauty to a place instead of wounding the senses, as they frequently do, by their unseemly nakedness.

The maple, oak, elm, hickory, ash, &c. among the hard wood trees, are suitable for preservation or planting, and among the soft wood kinds, the various sorts of pine, fir and larch. The pine and fir, being evergreens, should be allowed their due representation in all groves, both as a matter of ornament, and for protection against the cold winds of winter.—In Scotland, great attention is paid to the protection of mountain and hill land pastures, by plantations of trees. The larch is there recommended as one of the most profitable kinds that can be used—particularly on account of its rapid growth and its value as timber. How would the American larch do in this respect? It may be well to say that the American larch is what in some neighbourhoods is called juniper, though the real juniper is altogether a different tree. It is an evergreen of the cedar family, whereas the larch is deciduous. We have only noticed this tree growing naturally in wet boggy ground. Will it flourish well in other locations? Would the Scotch larch do well on common uplands? and would it be an object to plant it in such situations? What is the distinguishing difference to the Scotch and American larch, as regards their natural habits of growth, quality of wood, &c. We shall feel obliged if some one will answer these queries.

SOIL, DRAINAGE, AND MANURE.

In the management of a garden, three

things are absolutely necessary to the health of the plants, viz.: to have the soil well drained: to keep light and open, and to refresh it regularly with manure or rich compost. Through drainage should be effectually secured, before the garden is planted by soughs, and by trenching the soil to the depth of two or three feet; always bearing in mind, that, in this operation, the top soil to about six or eight inches below the surface, unless very bad, should be kept at the top, as it is almost sure to be better than that which lies below. The soil must be kept light and open by constant working, and stirring about, and by having plenty of sand, mixed with it, if it is at all stiff, the flower beds should have a dressing of manure or rich compost regularly every spring, about February, digging or forking it in between plants. Rotten dung is the best general manure; bone-dust is also excellent, or bones of any kind coarsely broken and buried in the soil at any season will be found of great use; and there are always plenty of these in every family, which with little trouble might be thus advantageously appropriated to the flower borders. Respecting the utility of bones as manure, see Mr. Howre's work on the cultivation of the Vine. The following will be found an excellent plan, in a small garden, in order to keep the soil constantly refreshed with new and wholesome food for the plants. Take rotten dung, fresh manure or garden soil, old turf chopped up with the spade, and common sand, in equal quantities; mix them well together, and lay them in a heap exposed to the weather for a month, and whenever a fresh plant is put in, or seeds are sown, take out a spadeful or two of the old soil, and replace it with some of the compost. The old soil taken out may be mixed with the next prepared heap of compost, which should be ready for use as soon as the first is exhausted.—*Mott's*

From the Virginia Valley Farmer.

FALL PLOUGHING.

We would call the attention of our subscribers and farmers generally, to the importance of ploughing in the fall of the year. This, we do with the more confidence at this time, because now the agricultural operations of the Valley and adjacent country, are in a more forward condition, than they have been for many years. The bountiful corn crop has, in a great measure, been stripped of its fodder or topped, or what is better, cut up, and put in shocks; and a very laborious part of the farmer's duty has thus been discharged in a good season, without infringing upon the great business of this season of the year—the seeding of winter grain. More wheat, we learn, has been sown than we remember in any former year, at so early a date; and but for the drought which so extensively pervades the country, a still greater breadth would have been seeded. With the best portion of the year for efficient labor before them likely to be less interrupted by the ordinary work of the season, would it not be well for our husbandmen to test the efficiency of fall ploughing. In the tide water district of the State, this practice is less necessary, because from the comparative mildness of the climate, the loose, friable character of the soil, and other cause, the operation of ploughing can there be often continued in the winter. Here, it is seldom practicable during that season; it is therefore, generally crowded into their brief and busy space of the spring month—frequently suspended by the fitful variations of storm and sunshine; common to that period of the year. Much imperfect work is thus necessarily hurried through, to the injury of hands, horses and implements, and planting commences, while the soil is in a crude, unkind condition to receive the grain; and if it is a clay formation very liable to be injured by the baking influence of the summer's sun. Farther, by ploughing in the fall, a deal of vegetable matter is returned to the soil, which is wasted to a great extent, if left to wither and decay in the blasts of winter. This advantage, it is true, is somewhat curtailed at the present time, for most of our fields show the

scorching effect of the drought which has been exhausting them—but many of our stubble lands designed for corn and other summer crops, are yet covered with a dense and luxuriant growth of weeds. Who can doubt, that these turned in with a good barshare and chain attached would add greatly to the fertility of the soil? The opinion entertained by many agriculturists, is, we think, correct, that it is green and growing matter, which turned in, enriches pre-eminently, the vegetable mould of the earth. And it would appear reasonable that, its essential properties, thus arrested, and returned to the source from which they were derived—after passing through a fermenting and combining process, would become readily assimilated to the plants, which after a season, require them for their support. Certain kinds of soil, and after particular crops, it may be said, alone admit of being ploughed in the fall; well, it may be said also, that particular localities are better adapted to spring ploughing. A judicious farmer will soon determine which to select for that operation at the different seasons—and it will certainly greatly aid his system of proper cultivation, as well as advance his work at another, especially the busiest season of the year, if a liberal portion of his land has been ploughed before the approach of winter. Corn, besides, requires a mellow tilth, to invite the spread of the tender roots, and to give early vigour to the plant. This is insured, to a great extent, by ploughed land, subjected to the purging and thawing of the winter months. But little of our limestone land is sufficiently loose for corn planting when the time for it approaches, and much of it is seriously injured, by hurried, wet ploughing in the spring. It may be said that, ground ploughed in the fall of the year and planted in the spring, without stirring, would impede the cultivation of young corn. That this might be the case, in some instances, is most likely, but the increased crop would more than compensate for the labour of stirring such soils as are most liable to the early putting up of noxious vegetation. Stirring in Spring, would be a work of comparative ease, and the fable of the old farmer and his sons cannot be too deeply impressed on modern cultivators of the soil. He told them of a treasure which lay concealed in the land conveyed to them, which they could alone discover by ploughing it. They kept turning up the soil, but found no gold; the treasure, however, was eventually discovered in the shape of fall granaries, produced by repeatedly stirring and mixing the earth.

From the New York Tribune.

SCIENCE FOR FARMERS.

Perhaps the most serious obstacle to improvement in any of the great pursuits of life is the prejudice that exists among men against adopting the suggestions of those not engaged in their occupations, and pursuing objects which to them appear altogether disconnected with theirs. This cannot be considered strange, particularly when it is remembered how many pretended inventions and improvements, found entirely in ignorance, are palmed off every day upon the credulous. Few can apply the proper tests to these pretensions, and being deceived a few times, men form a habit of suspicion, which is indiscriminately indulged against the true as well as the false; a distinction is made between *Theory* and *Practice*, which leads to the greatest errors. Men forget that the practice of today was yesterday's theory, and that, with rare exceptions, all the great improvements in farming as well as in all the great improvements in farming as well as in all the other Arts, are the results of careful research. Our fathers would have ridiculed the application of lime to the farms they had impoverished in their practical way; and so many a farmer is now turning away from other "theoretical suggestions," which will be the practice of his sons. It would be well for men to be more cautious in condemning *Theory*; and in the face of the experience of the last two hundred

years such a habit indicates either gross ignorance or wilfulness. Nothing could appear more fanciful than the experiments of Galvanic with little pieces of different metals on the muscles of frogs, and any theories arising from these would, we might have thought, be well received as wild schemes; yet the world is every day gaining some new benefit from their results. The last is this. Electro-Magnetic Telegraph, which when first proposed was considered by practical men entirely impracticable, as was Fulton's proposition to construct a vessel to go by steam power.

Having so often heard farming books and farming papers condemned by farmers, who, we thought, should have known better, and knowing how prevalent this prejudice is, we are induced to pursue the argument farther than its importance many seem to demand. Though the question may be settled a thousand times, still as repeated rains and frequent hoeing are necessary to insure a bountiful crop, so true knowledge can only be disseminated by repeated lessons and frequent rooting out of the weeds of error. These books and papers contain the results of trials made by individuals in all parts of the world, and thus they but in the hands of each the multiplied experience of all. Beside this they contain suggestions from men, occupied in other pursuits, which nevertheless may have a bearing upon agriculture that the farmer little suspect. His observations are confined to the practical operation of substances upon each other in rather a limited routine. The nature and composition of these complex materials he has few means and little time to learn, and their effects he can neither predict beforehand nor afterwards explain. A slight deviation from an established path, of which he may himself be unconscious, produces results he cannot comprehend. He to improve them, and his efforts may be vain, unless he has the aid of those who may enrich all his lands, lying useless and unknown. Another class of men are occupied in the study of the laws of matter—in tracing out each ingredient in all its intricate combinations, and ascertaining its effect upon other substances in each one. Their conclusions are often applied to practical purposes in various arts and sciences, e. g. chalk or marble in powder they find renders the virulent poison, oxalic acid, inert; this is made known to the medical practitioner, and carbonate lime and carbonate magnesia become antidotes to this poison taken into the human system.

So again it was noticed by Orfila that albumen formed an inert compound with corrosive sublimate, and the white of eggs is now the antidote for this poison. So in the growth of plants—If by scientific research it is ascertained that Carbonate Lime or the Albumen for the Oxalic Acid or Corrosive Sublimate he may have swallowed.—And if plaster is found in the laboratory of the chemist to be a wonderful absorbent and retainer of so valuable but volatile a product of stables and yards as Ammonia, shall the farmer refuse to spread it for that purpose because he knows nothing of the Ammonia, and believes it all theory? With as much wisdom he might class his lightning rod with the horse-shoe nailed up to keep off evil spirits, and take them both down together.

The extent of the beneficial applications of chemical and geological to agricultural science we have yet hardly begun to learn. All the departments of knowledge are more closely woven together than we imagine. The same general laws obtain in all created things, and so harmonious and extensive are they in their operation, that the striking of the most obscure chord may vibrate through the whole system of nature, and lead us to a better understanding, even of these things which apparently we were not investigating.

This introduction may perhaps be followed with some remarks on the beneficial effects to be derived from the chemical analysis of soils.