

Such are some of the results, alike gratifying and encouraging to those who are urging forward one of the noblest enterprises of modern times.

### The Farm.

#### Sowing Clover or Timothy Seed.

Take one bushel of clover seed, put it in a pile on your barn floor. Make three gallons of pickle, not quite strong enough to bear an egg, put it on the seed, mix it thoroughly in the evening with a paddle or shovel, and then spread it on the floor four inches thick. The next morning, wet it again as above; then mix about one peck of plaster, by sprinkling two quarts upon it at a time, well stirred; spread out your heap again, and so on, till you have it so well dried that the seed will not stick together. Sow while the seed is damp. One bushel thus prepared will make over one and a half bushels.

The advantage of sowing in this way is, you save at least one-third of your seed and are almost certain of its growing. In the spring and summer of 1849, I sowed in four different pieces, forty-two acres, in the above way, six quarts to the acre, not one acre of which "missed." I sowed nine acres in the old way, viz.: The clean dry seed; six quarts to the acre. On the whole field there may be two acres of clover, not more. I also sowed nine bushels of plaster on this field; not any on the other.

An experienced gentleman told me of this way and that he had seldom if ever missed having plenty of clover, and thick enough too. —*Albany Cultivator.*

#### Peas—their Value as a Crop.

There is, as a general thing, not sufficient attention paid by farmers to the pea crop. It is valuable in many respects. If not an absolute fertilizer, it is one of the greatest ameliorizers of the soil, and one of the lightest feeders on its nutritive principles.

As a preparation for wheat, it is unequalled; and on stiff clays and clayey loams, it rarely fails of remunerating the labor bestowed upon it, and leaves the land in better condition for wheat, with one ploughing, than by any other process.

They yield best sown early, after fall-ploughed stubble, corn ground or clover sward, and require to be limed or put upon a calcareous wheat soil. Plaster has a decidedly beneficial effect, as it has upon clover, and all the leguminous plants and other light feeders, which draw a great portion of their nutriment from the atmosphere.

The Pea Bug (*Bruchus Pisi*) is a serious drawback upon the pea crop, for eating or for market; but if fed to the hogs, they effect no injury to its value. Sow a strip for seed after the 10th of June, and they will be entirely free from the bug—the insect having exhausted its procreating ability, and probably followed the destiny of most of the coleopterous genus, and died. It does not generally produce as heavy a crop, when sown thus late. It is said that if, at the time of sowing, peas are put into a basket and dipped into boiling water one minute, it does not destroy their germinating qualities, but effectually destroys the bug.

The great value of the pea is for early feeding to hogs intended for killing. A bushel of peas is worth as much as a bushel of corn for fattening purposes, and does not cost half as much to produce it; besides, it is ready to feed before potatoes, corn or any other crop, except those of the last year's produce. In fact it is preferable to corn for early feeding, as it possesses the qualities that produce fibrin, or muscle, rather than fat, and the hogs are more thrifty early in the season, than when fed by any other process. —*Rural New-Yorker.*

#### Watering Newly Transplanted Trees.

In very dry seasons, like the present,—or as it was a few weeks ago,—it is often important to water newly transplanted trees; but the common mode is very objectionable. When the water is poured on the surface, the soil is apt to crack, and let the moisture below escape through the openings, so that its utility may often be very doubtful. Lately I have applied the water very differently. Dig a hole near the tree so as not to disturb its roots, and pour in a pailful. Then draw in the loose earth till the hole is filled, and covered up completely, so that nothing wet is visible; and no cracks will ever appear. A tree treated in this manner will not need watering again for a week. —*American Agriculturist.*

### Medicine for Horses.

As a general rule any medicine, except an emetic, is good for a horse that is good for the same complaint in the human system. Multiply an ordinary dose for a man by nine, for a common horse, or even by twelve for a very large horse.

The above was obtained upon a late visit to Col. Wade Hampton, of South Carolina, and few men in this country are more competent to give prescriptions of the kind than that gentleman. —*Id.*

### Sea Marsh Mud.

This is one of the most easily obtained and most neglected manures. It is very valuable. —*Id.*

### Salt Injurious to Poultry.

Do not give poultry salt, or salt food. It is poisonous to them. —*Id.*

### Experiments with Liquid Manure.

The English Royal Agricultural Society have been just investigating the properties of liquid manures, such as urine, water from sewers, &c. It is there decided that the soil itself retains and holds all the qualities of the manure, and that therefore liquids are the best kind of manure which can possibly be obtained. It was also alleged by Professor Way that lime should be sown on soil previous to the manure being put upon it.

### WHEAT BRAN AS A FERTILIZER.

This has been tried by several persons in Delaware with great success. It is said that a handful to the hill will double the corn crop. Care must be taken to cover the bran before dropping the corn, or the fermentation will kill the seed if in direct contact with the bran. It is said to be equally valuable upon wheat. The matter is worth experimenting upon. It is hoped that those who try it will give us the details for the benefit of our readers. —*American Agriculturist.*

### Wool Growing.

A correspondent who has had good opportunities to understand this matter, writes us as follows:

Perhaps there has been no time in ten years, when good merino sheep were in better demand in our country than at the present time. Messrs. Jones & Rockwell, A. L. & M. Bingham, Hall & Hammond, E. Robinson and others, find a steady sale for the surplus of their noted flocks, at remunerating prices. We say, then, that it is our firm conviction that there is no danger of overstocking the market—that there cannot be too much of improved and good wool raised in our country—that if instead of 24,000,000 there were 48,000,000 of sheep in our country, they could scarcely supply the present demand—and that this branch of farming will be the great leading interest for the next ten years to come. —*Middlebury Reg.*

### FLOWER GARDEN.

Soon as frost disappears, uncover protected plants and trim out decayed shoots, or those which have been injured by frost.

Sow hardy annuals about the 5th of April; take the plan recommended by Bridgeman:—"Press a bowl edge downwards into the earth, until you have made a circular drill to the required depth, and plant the seeds in this drill. You may then bury any special manure in the centre, and there place the label; when grown, the stalks of the flower will form a circle, and the effect and mutual support will both be improved." Plant box edgings; clip the tops evenly and trim the roots judiciously, but do not plant without roots, for although the plants may grow they will never form an even edge. Avoid grass edgings—they are too troublesome; the sea pink, mignonette, phlox subulata and phlox procumbens are better in every respect.

Clean out your tulip beds, remove the tan, leaves and other protections; spring hoops over the beds, so as to be able to protect them by mats, against sudden hard showers, &c.; support as they advance by small rods. This will apply to most bulbs. Roses should be planted this month, if possible. Buist recommends that where the object is to keep back the flowering, it is better done by removing them in boxes or pots to the dry part of an ice-house until the desired time of planting, which may be delayed as long as the required time of flowering. Roses should not be crowded with other shrubs; they should rather be grouped

with each other, so as to have relation to chromatic arrangement of color as well as size and figure of the group.

Deciduous ornamental flowering shrubs should be planted as early as possible, for on this fact depends their beauty. Their roots should not long be exposed to the air, and in finally pressing the earth around them, leave a cavity to hold water in dry weather.

Grass-plats should be rolled early to replace the upheavings by frost. A slight salting will improve their color, and prevent the earthworms from annoying the roots.

Repair and roll gravel walks early; sprinkle them plentifully with dry salt, which will keep down weeds, grass, &c. No good gardener permits a weed to be seen. Prick out annuals, give plenty of air and frequent sprinklings with water. Roses may be grafted at this time if desired. Deciduous shrubs should not be planted after the 15th. Evergreen shrubs should now be planted.

### Scientific.

#### THE LANGUAGE OF ANIMALS.

It is often asked why animals have not the power of speech. This is taking it for granted that they have it not. From a few facts however, it is easily proved that, although they may not have the faculty of articulation, like a man, yet they have a way of communicating their ideas. Those classes of animals seem to possess this power in the most remarkable degree, that live together in communities or societies, as to them it would of course be most necessary.

Bees are able to make different sounds by the means of their feelers, and these sounds convey various meanings. When they are about to swarm, scouts are sent out to find a suitable location; these return, report what they have seen, a buzzing noise is made, and the whole swarm start for the place on which the scouts have fixed. A wasp, which has found some store of food, has been observed to go to its nest, and in some way impart such information to its associates that they have flown to the place in a body.

Ants possess this faculty in a still greater degree. When they are at work, there is evidently a communication between the master-workman and the laborer. So when an army of them is moving, the march is conducted with a regularity that would be impossible unless they understood each other. At a given signal from the leaders, they are seen to quicken their pace; scouts are dispatched, reinforcements brought up, messages sent from one portion to another, inasmuch that the various movements seem almost to be directed by human intelligence.

An ant that has found a piece of food too large to be carried by itself unassisted, will return to its nest, and bring to its aid several of its comrades. Dr. Franklin gives us an instance in point. He had suspended a pot of molasses by a string from the ceiling, in order to preserve it from the ants. One of the troublesome visitors had remained on the pot, and was seen ascending the string, and betaking itself to its hole. Not many moments had elapsed before a large company of ants were discerned making their way to the extremity of the string; they descended to the pot, ate their fill, and then gave way to another band of their hungry fraternity. It would seem, in this case, that information must have been given by the first discoverer.

A crow perched on a lofty limb, while its companions are feeding, will, by a single caw, which is at once understood and acted on, give notice of approaching danger. Indeed the note of danger is one which all animals seem to understand. A hen, by her well known calls, will collect her chickens under her wings, as expeditiously as a human mother can gather her children by words.

#### OCEAN CURRENTS.

An interesting fact as regards the influence of the currents of the ocean upon the deposits which are now going on at its bottom, was stated by Lieut. Maury, at the meeting of the American Association in Charleston. Some where in the vicinity of the West India Islands, is a calm place in the Atlantic, known as the "Horse Latitudes." The region derives its name from the fact that the New England vessels formerly carrying horses and mules to the West Indies, would not unfrequently, through ignorance of the currents, be carried thither, and be forced to remain until the animals had drunk up all the fresh water. When this took place they were necessarily thrown overboard; hence the name Horse Latitudes. To this

spot, by various currents, all manner of refuse floating on the ocean is carried. Trees and drift wood from the Susquehanna and the Delaware, wrecked steamboats and snags from the Mississippi, the tropical trees from the Amazon, and the productions of Africa which come down the Congo and Niger rivers, all are here accumulated. When they first reach the ocean at the mouths of the rivers, they become the habitation and residence of thousands of marine animals and vegetables. These, as the logs become water-soaked, act as buoys, supporting them, but when they reach the region spoken of, owing to the increased temperature of the water, and the great amount of saline matter consequent to the constant evaporation going there, the animals and vegetables at once die and sink their medium of transportation. If the bottom of the ocean at this point should at any time become dry land, a deposit would be found surpassing any of the known geological formations in the richness and variety of its organic remains. It was also stated in this connection, that the post of light-house keeper on Key West was the most valuable office of the kind in this country, on account of the revenue derived by the keeper from the wrecks of the Mississippi steamboats which here come on shore.

#### MOULDINESS THROUGH A MICROSCOPE.

Nothing can be more curious than the appearance exhibited by mouldiness, when viewed through a microscope. If looked at by the naked eye, it seems nothing but an irregular tissue of filaments; but the magnifying glass shows it to be a forest of small plants which serves them as a base. The stem of these plants may be plainly distinguished, and sometimes their buds, some shut and some open. They have much similarity to mushrooms, the tops of which when they come to maturity, emit an exceedingly fine dust, which is their seed. Mushrooms, it is well known, are the growth of a single night, but those in miniature of which we are speaking, seem to come to perfection in a much less space of time than that; hence we account for the extraordinary progress which mouldiness makes in a few hours. Another curious observation of the same kind is, that M. Ahlefeld, seeing some stones covered with a sort of dust, had the curiosity to examine it with a microscope, and he found that it consisted of small mushrooms raised on pedicles the heads of which round the middle, were turned up at the edges. They were striated also from the centre to the circumference, as certain kinds of mushrooms are. He further remarked that they contained, above their upper covering, a multitude of small grains, shaped like cherries, and somewhat flattened, which he suspects are the seeds; and finally, he observed among this forest of mushrooms, several small, red insects, which probably fed upon them.

#### AQUATIC FIREWORKS.

We had last night a splendid exhibition of aquatic fireworks. The night was perfectly dark, and the sea smooth; and you might see a thousand living rockets shooting off in all directions from our ship, and, running through countless configurations, return to her, leaving their track still bright with inextinguishable flame. Then they would start again, whirling through every possible gyration, till the whole ocean around seemed medallioned with fire. The fact was, we had run into an immense shoal of porpoises and small fish. The sea being filled at the same time with animalculæ, which emit a bright phosphoric light when the water is agitated, the chase of the porpoises after these small fish created the beautiful phenomena described. The light was so strong that you could see the fish with the utmost distinctness. They lit their own path, like a sky-rocket in a dark night. Our ship left the track of its keel in flame for half a mile. I have witnessed the illumination of St. Peter's and the castle of Michael Angelo at Rome, and heard the shout of the vast multitudes as the splendors broke over the dark cope of night; but no pyrotechnic displays ever got up by human skill, could rival the exhibitions of nature around our ship. Give me a phosphoric sea and a shoal of porpoises for fireworks: out on man and hisanity; he is outdone, even with the thunders of the Vatican at his command, by the ocean hog! —*W. W. Colton.*

The smallest bird of America is the humming bird; and of Europe, the golden-crested wren. The smallest quadruped in the world is the pigmy mouse of Siberia.