Agricultural.

DEEP PLOWING—ITS WISDOM AND ITS FOLLY.

Deep plowing is one of the fashions of the "agricultural literature" of the day. All the agricultural journals, and nearly all the speakers at agricultural Fairs, insist upon the importance of deep plowing. Many people seem really to believe that the only thing necessary to insure a good crop of almost any kind, and in almost any place, is to plow deep enough.

"Give warm water, no matter what the disease," said the quack doctor, "and if the patient dies, say he didn't drink enough." "Plow deep," say these agricultural teachers, and if the crop fails they tell the farmers they did not plow deep enough.

Now, the depth to which ground should be plowed depends entirely upon circumstances. Where there was originally a deep, rich soil, and the surface of it has been worn out by exhausting crops and shallow cultivation, turning up the soil to a greater depth effects its renovation. Good crops will grow where nothing grew before. This is the case with much of the land in Eastern Virginia.

But where there is rich or fair surface soil, but very thin, underlaid by gravel or sand, or anything else that is entirely unproductive, plow to a great depth, and, without heavy manuring, you ruin the land for present uses.

Manure heavily enough, and you may plow any land ever so deep; but without such manuring the proper depth is determined by the character of the subsoil and the kind of crop to be raised.

Rye, many very experienced farmers say, always does best with shallow plowing. One of the best farmers in the United States told us that he tried carrots on two fields, side by side, and alike in other respects, one of which was plowed deep, and the other comparatively shallow, and the carrots on the shallow plowed were much larger, and, what seemed strange, they grew to a much greater depth. Mr. Morgan, of Vermont, in an article which we published last week, says that "onions bottom better where the ground has been rolled or hard trodden."

We believe that sub-soiling may frequently be useful where deep surface plowing would be decidedly injurious. And it is desirable to deepen gradually, from year to year, the surface plowing, for many crops, as fast as it can be done without detriment; that is, as fast as you can enrich the additional subsoil which is turned up but no faster; unless as we have said before, the subsoil is already richer than the surface soil. —*N. Y. Post.*

CUCUMBERS.

About the 1st of June, says S. A. Marrow, in the Ohio *Cultivator*, I planted a few hills of cucumbers in an old straw pile; the half rotten straw covered the ground about one foot deep. I dug down through the straw to the ground and planted the seeds in the earth. The straw kept the ground moist, and the weeds from growing, consequently they needed no cultivation; but the vines grew unusually fast, and became exceedingly large, and their fruitfulness was almost beyond credibility. One vine alone bore at one time one hundred and forty cucumbers, yet a large proportion of them were small.

—MANURE CELLARS.—We have never been strongly in favor cellars as depositories of manure. Unless on sliding ground, so as to admit of opening level on one side, there would be great difficulty in shovelling out from them two or three hundred tons annually.—Even if on a level, the manure waggon would have to be 'backed' in, both in loading and in depositing any turf, peat or other substance used in intermixture. Besides these objections, cellar-room is too valuable for other purposes, while a contiguous yard will answer equally well for manure, and prove much more convenient, for loading and unloading and for the approach and egress of teams. We should much prefer making large piles of compost in the yard, by depositing successive layers of turf from fence corners, &c., with the manure; and if necessary all this may be done under a high open shed, to protect from the washing of rains, although even this is not necessary if the the turf, peat, loam, &c., are largely used in the stratification and covering of the heap.—*Country Gentleman.*

—FARMING—GENERAL VIEWS.—It has for more than twenty years been a maxim with me, 'Show me how to make manure, and I will show you how to farm it.' With some exceptions no farm is worth managing without it. But I find another question now, more formidable than the other. Now I am ready to say, 'Show me the work and I will show you the farm.'

Laziness is the farmer's besetting sin.

Let the farmer go to work at every odd job, and get him a good cellar under his barn, big enough to back under his cart. Then let him make a good stable over it; then cart his muck into the yard near the stable; and when it is not freezing weather, shovel in enough for his cattle and horses over-night.—When it is well saturated, let it drop down through into the cellar. It he he has no good muck, take poor muck. If he has no poor muck, let him go to the sides of the road, and dig up the wash of the roads out of low places.—Let him go to the forest and dig up old rotten leaves and whatever old mulch he can find. Common dirt is better than nothing. Absorb all the liquids of the barn and yard.

Next make a hog-pen with a good yard. Give them muck, turf, straw, leaves, in all rotten wood. When it is well worked over, cart it out into a heap, where let it remain until used.

Next, at the back kitchen door, make a deep vat or earth; fill it with dry muck. Make a spout from the sink to the vat, and let all dirty, soapy water run into it. Empty all the chambers into it—One pint of common soap will make one bushel more wheat than would grow without any manure.

If possible, a farmer should do his own work. Especially should he see to his cook. Let him see to his lambs, his colts, his fences, his implements. If he has a $300 horse, let him sell it—otherwise he or his boys will ride to the village too much. Let him keep away from the village until he has a good errand. He should sit down and calculate to do up as many errands as possible at once.—*Fencing Post.*

CORN PLANTING.

To hill or not to hill—that is the question." A practical farmer in Berkshire County, Mass., writes thus:

Most of our farmers hill their corn—but, working the land level is altogether preferable, on account of the droughts and the danger of disturbing the roots of hilled corn by ploughing.—It is reasonable to believe that an even surface of land will receive the dew and rain more evenly than an uneven surface."

This mode of planting corn is more frequently preferred by the best farmers than any other; that is to say, on green sward left in the Spring till nearly the time of planting, so as to allow the grass to get started if possible, when long manure is spread on the surface and turned under. It is thought advisable, in all cases to put a small portion of well decomposed manure in the hill. All plants receive some part of their nourishment from the air at the time their leaves are well developed. It is important therefore, that they should be well and early started out of the ground, and have something in the hill to supply them with food, until the young roots are sufficently grown to run out in search of other materials in the soil. The growth of the corn is far more rapid where half or two-thirds of the manure is only spread and ploughed in; the other half or one-third, put in the hill. It is thought, also, that the land is permanently improved by this method, or much more likely to be than if all the manure is put in the hill.

It is proper to remark, also that the best farmers in other sections of the State, are fast adopting the flat culture as the most rational and the best; and, chiefly, for the reasons stated in the extract above. There is, also, another advantage in it; that grass seed can be sown among the corn, if desired, in August or September. This is sometimes done, and always with success. If the corn is planted in spring with this intention, it is thought best to spread the manure as above described; plow and furrow using concentrated manure, as guano, in the hill. The corn is dropped upon it, and covered, the top of the hill being in the furrow, below the surface of the ground. The first hoeing raises the earth slightly up around the corn, and the second makes the surface perfectly level. But few experiments of this kind have come under my observation, but they have been, without exception, very successful; and it is probable that this method of planting will be more generally adopted particularly on land subject to drought.

THE CURCULIO—A SUCCESSFUL REMEDY.—Mr. Cha's Jewett, of Niles, Michigan, writes to the New York Evening Post, the following successful remedy against the curculio:—

A neighbor's plums were destroyed for five or six years by the curculio. Last spring, when in blossom, he dug the earth from the body, and out as far as the branches extended. The dirt taken out was covered over deep away from the trees. The space excavated from the roots was supplied to the depth of four inches with leached ashes. A bucket of weak lye was sprinkled over the ashes, under each tree, for five or six weeks, once a week. Result, no damage from the insect, and a full crop of fruit. Another used the above remedy also; made a mash of grease, lime and snuff, and rubbed over the body and far out on the limbs of the trees. This one had a good crop of plums.

GRAFTING PEARS ON MOUNTAIN ASH.—A correspondent of the *Maine Farmer* says, that five years ago he grafted several Bartlett pears on Mountain Ash stocks. Last year one of them bore very full, more so than is usual on pear stocks. The flavor of the pear is excellent, and not at all changed by the stock.

TANNERS' BARK is now understood to be capitally adapted to the strawberry. Spread it completely over the soil; it will keep the fruit clean and the soil moist. This is the true mulching for the strawberry. There is no doubt of this.

CANDOR—How many amusing and ridiculous scenes should we witness in this world if each pair of men that secretly laugh at each other, were to laugh at each other aloud.

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Done with promptness and dispatch. Hoping to receive a share of the public patronage, I remain your obedient servant, and warranted to give satisfaction.

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For Matching and Matching, Planing, or Planing, Plank or Boards, from 12 to 20 in. per hundred feet.
Plank or Boards, from 20 to 30 in. per hundred feet.
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Planing on one side, 20 cts. per hundred feet.
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O. H. REYNOLDS.

Center Rutland, March 16, 1854. 12tf

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