Rural Lconomy.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE.

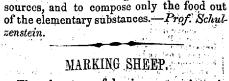
There is such a demand for parks, ceme teries, and gardens, that a profession of "Landscape Architecture" has arisen to give advice in these matters. Judging by the finished product, there exists in the profession an axiom to this effect-all paths and water-lines must meander. To the sheep-yard, are too obvious to every one to yulgar mind this is by no means self-evident, and we have, therefore, thought it not uninstructive to recall the scientific. basis of the doctrine. Brooks and watercourses, in general, are apt to meander. though it is not without example that they go tolerably straight. An Alpine road winds up the side of the mountain. The brook seeks always to go down, and it acwater-lines, and a justification of winding before their open free. Into this, put a paths and roads.

direction of the path be tolerably straight, yet it is full of little bends and slight departures from the direct course. Looking to the cause of these deviations from the shortest path to the bars which will be dropped for her at evening, it will be found that the cow set her foot aside to avoid a hummock, or rounded a whortleberry-bush, or steered clear of a rock or a mud hole. and sufficient justification of curved roads and paths; the avoidance of obstacles, small or great, bushes or forests, boulders or mountains, is a prime cause of windings. and demands, the best skill of the profes sional engineer. It is as short, and vastly easier to go round the hill as to go over it the old turnpike, stretching away straight over hill and valley, was as stupid a contrivance as ever made progress difficult.

found in the frequent necessity of changing, direction, which the narrow limits of parks and gardens often impose upon those who design the walks and drives. For chang-ing direction a curve is, doubtless, more cause is really but a special case of the

In a very few of the best public parks and gardens in this country these princi-ples find perfect illustration, but in the vast majority of public and private pleasuregrounds they are utterly disregarded. Who has not found himself impatiently following gravel s's over an absolutely level and unobstructed field of grass? Who has washtubs than nature's ponds. Such art mocks nature.

In promenading, as in more serious matters, the pleasure, men take in devious ways is quite destroyed if all the world can hoppers are generally unirteen-tentils of an plainly see how devious they are The inch in length, of a greenish brown color, fact is that a genuine Yankee, even if he be pushing a feminine left elbow in the than most of the common Eastern species. hollow of his right, see Swith impatience that he has walked a hundred feet to advance ten, or that the path he follows wriggles like a snake along the unobstruct-



The advantage of having every sheep in the flock marked with plain figures, such as can be easily read even across a common need any argument in its favor. The best materials for marking we have ever used are red lead and pure Japan. This mixture will work equally well whether you use iron or wooden types. Many try Venetian red, which looks very well at first, but it soon rubs off and the figures become ob in books? scure. Others, again, when using Japan, mix boiled linseed oil with it, but this is brook seeks always to go down, and it ac-cepts a descent_kin whatever direction it can ind one. The mountain road endeavors to surmount a steep height gradually, and winds about the mountain side seeking for moderate grades, such as men and beasts can ascend and descend with ease. Differ-ences of level are thus the gauge of devices mother sused to bake "Schning cakes" in mothers sused to bake "Schning cakes" in few spoonsful of lead and as much Japan as Across a level meadow the cow-path is needed to mix with it, so the mixture never goes straight; though the general shall be about the thickness of West India molasses. This spreads out over the bottom of your tin, and is just the right depth to cover the surface of your type, hence there will be but little loss. When properly applied we have seen the figures on the darkest Merinoes showing themselves

with the clearest distinctness round to the end of the year / The marking should be done soon after shearing, and when put on, Herein is to be found the second natural the sheep should be allowed to go directly and sufficient justification of curved roads from the hands of the marker into an open lot, to prevent them from huddling together, and obscuring their, numbers by rubbing against each other.

A GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE.

W. S. R. writes to the New York Obser-ver from Highland Kan., September 14, 1866 :- For some time past we have heard of the approach of the Colorado, grasshop-pers. On Tuesday they made their appearance here, flying as high as the eye can reach and coming down like huge snow flakes—until in many places everything ing direction a onrve is, doubiless, more graceful than a sharp angle; nature rounds her corners, except in crystals. This third would be a moderate, allowance for a hill. A very short time suffices to strip off all scool; the park fence is the obstacle to the foliage, leaving only the bare stalks; be avoided. to check their ravages: bBlue grass pastures are gnawed down to the very roots and wheat will of course be destroyed (if they remain,) as fast as it comes up, every kernel left above ground being already eaten i One of my neighbors was sowing wheat when they arrived. The next day he could not find his team to harrow it in, and unobstructed held of grass; into has no could not find his team to harrow it in, not seen with disgust, scallop-edged tanks and the following day; he could not find cut out of a grassy plain as flat as a barn-floor, and provided with curb stones to hold of it. Forest and fruit trees have suffered the water in ? Such tanks are more like but little, though elder bushes are stripped as bare as in winter. The grasshoppers are now engaged in depositing their eggs, and the ground in many places is almost honeymatters, the pleasure men take in devious combed by their eggicells? These grass-ways is quite destroyed if all the world can hoppers are generally thirteen-tenths of an

red in

and that the plant does not need to procure as quoted by Dr. Percy: "That dauntless the carbon and nitrogen from different sources, and to compose only the food out of commerces has led this country to cast off the trammels of protection, has resulted in augmented prosperity to the nation, show-ing the injurious tendencies of class legislation when opposed to general freedom of action. Would that the same bold and enlightened policy were extended, in some legree; at least, to matters of invention. Under our present Patent Law we are borne down with an excess of protection." But carry out the idea. It is not necessary to

carry out the idea: It is not necessary to stop short at inventions. These are only one class of products of the skill and in-dustry of man. Why should any product of brainwork or of labor be protected? Why should copyright in works of "art or in books? Sir William Armstrong also urges the view that "the prestige of successful inven-tion would, as a rule, bring with it suff-crent reward, and that protection might be entirely dispensed with." Such, too; was the argument used by the Bolton cotton manu-facturers when they urged. Samuel Compfacturers when they urged Samuel Crompton not to take out a patent for his invention of the Self acting Mule, but to make it free to the public. Unfortunately for him-self, he acted upon their advice, every one knows with what result. The cotton manufacturers of Bolton and elsewhere made immense fortunes by means of Grompton's invention, while he himself died in poverty. Sir William Armstione, further, insists that "practical men who, like Watt and George Stephenson, devote the best part of their lives to perfecting inventions of immense importance to the world, seldom derive from patents any greater emolument than would flow to them without the aid of a restrictive system, while they are freuently involved in tormenting litigation about priority of idea." But do the advo-cates of the abolicion of patent-right suppose that Watt would have borne up through the laborious toil connected with the invention of his condensing-engine for more than twenty mortal years, had he known that, immediately on the invention being perfected, every mine-owner, and manufacturer would be free to use it without making any compensation whatever to him for his labor and his skill?" As 'it was, no sooner had he shown his first pumping-engine at work in Cornwall than he was fallen upon by pirates, who sought to rob him of the fruits of his industry; and there is not the slightest doubt that, but for the protection grant-ed him by Parliament and the energetic support of his partner Boulton, Wattwould have died as poor, and ill rewarded for his invention as the inventor of the Self acting Mule. As for George Stephenson, he was not an original inventor so much as a ready adopter and skilful adapter of the inven-tions of others a shrewd, practical man, who did not besitate to make use of any arrangement that seemed best suited for his purpose; and if he did not make money by the gatents which he himself took out, it was because they were of comparatively little value

Tt is quite true that the original inventor, even when protected by patent, very often does not reap the reward of his labor ; but that is no reason for withholding the induce-ment of the reward from those who are willing to compete for it. Take, for example, the following important problem which Dr. Percy sets for inventors to solve :--"To the icoal masters of South Stafford-shire," he says, "an economical solution of the problem of coking the thick coal slack would be of immense value." A prodigious amount of the fine slack has been and still

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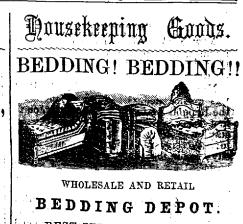
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ed turf.

But, must all paths be straight ? Must we drive on alleys whose, tiresome perspective suggests fatigue ? By no means. But "landscape architects" must justify their curves by manufactured, if there be no natural, differences of level, and by artificial obstacles, like planted shrubbery and trees, if nature's woods and underbrush and rocks he lacking. A slight curvature, no greater than the width of the path, conceals the distant way as well as half a circle, and long sweeps and gentle curves are much more natural than u's and s's. Above all, water-boundaries should be determined solely by the varying level of the surrounding land, and the edges of artificial ponds should invariably be sloping, and made of sand, gravel, or pebbles, never of masonry. An arch or a stone bridge is a fine feature in a landscape, yet we do not build a series of arched bridges across an unbroken plain, simply in order to meander up and down, after the manner of the mythical sea-serpent. Horizontal meandering, without due cause, is quite as absurd.— The Nation.

SOURCES OF NITROGEN,

But what is the source of nitrogen in turf? The general opinion is, that carburetted hydrogen gas is formed, of which the hydrogen unites itself with the nitrogen of the air so as to form ammonia. This, however, is contradicted by the nitrogen not being present in the turf itself in the form of ammonia, which is only formed by the dry distillation of animal substances. This shows that the nitrogen in the turf. the late Mr. Brunel enunciated the opinion animal substances, as for instance in horn, bones, albumen and meat. In fact, it can be proved that the nitrogen of the turf really originates from animal bodies, which live or have lived therein, and of such traces are to be found in the turf. The classes of infusoria, polypes, worms, molusca, crustacea and insects are best represented, which through their bulky development produce the nitrogen in turf-pits and in turf itself.

Turf manure does not act as quickly as

Liebig affirms that turf can only be considered as a manure for plants if phosphate

substances in particular, show irrefutably that the food of plants forms a simple substance, which is represented in the gases

of humus-carbon, hydrogen and nitogen- view of the inexpediency of patent rights,

1RON AND STEEL. (Continued)

MANUFACTURERS AND PATENT RIGHTS.

Although the subject of patent-right does not, strictly speaking, fall, within the scope of Dr. Percy's work, he cannot, avoid coming across it, from time to time,, in describing, the numerous improvements in the manufacture of metals to which recent inventions have given birth Manufactur? vently, "from this restless and mischief" making race !" So long as manufacturers are carrying on a prosperous trade; they have no desire for new inventions, which if successful, only have the effect of compelling them to introduce alterations in their machinery and new modes of manufacture, for the purpose of meeting the com-petition which they stimulate. Manufacturers also bear a grudge against inventors for the royalties payable to them under their patents, and think it hard that they should be departed from freely adopting, without any such restriction, the best methods which have been discovered for producing the largest quantity of metal in the shortest time and at the lowest price.

They consider patents not only an annoyance and obstruction, but the cause of a diminution in their profits-to' which, of course, they very much object.

must be in the same condition as it is in | that when a workman brought forward a new invention or improvement in machinery worthy of adoption, if he was paid a sovereign or so for his trouble, it was reward enough. One wealthy iron manufacturer coolly declared to Drepercy that "brains are more abundant in the orld than capi-tal, and ought, therefore, to be had cheap." Hence the resistance which has so often been offered, first, to the introduction of inventions, and next to the payment of royalty to the inventors when their use has become indispensable. As Crawshay, the stable manure, because it decomposes more | iron potentate of South Wales, resisted the slowly, but it thereby becomes more effica, claims of Cort, so Baird, the iron potentate of Scotland, resisted the claims of Neilson. Hence, too, the Cornish mining interest resisted the claims of Boulton and Watt for of lime be mixed up with it. But as turf royalty on their condensing engine, without contains in itself a sufficient quantity of which their mines must have remained this substance, I need hardly say that drowned with water, and could not possibly Liebig's opinion cannot be upheld in prac-tice. My experiments in adding bonedust ment of the Cornish mine owners was, that to the turf have not given any better results the new pumping engine was necessary for than by using turf alone.

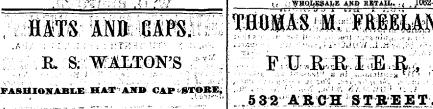
Manuring with humus in general, and tion of its use by payment of royalty to the manuring with turf and decayed vegetable invantor, was prejudicial not only to their invantor. individual interests but to the interests of the public at large.

Such, also, is Sir William Armstrong's

doubt that should any person be so fortunate as to succeed in converting this at present worthless material into good coke, at a moderate cost, he would realize a large fortune, and he would, moreover, have the satisfaction of prolonging the industrial life of South Staffordshire, which has begin to suffer from the exhaustion of its fuel."" But no man of ingenuity and skill would devote his time and labor to the solution of a problem like this, important though it be to the national industry, without the hope of some adequate reward. If every coal, owner ware free to appropriate the invention, so soon as made, to, his own use, the, public interest would doubtless gain, but the in-ventor himself would be sacrificed. It seems quite reasonable that if a man

gives his labor and skill to perfecting an invention calculated to be of public utility, he should be remunerated for it. The nethod heretofore adopted has been to grant the privilege of, a patent for a limited, term, conditional on the inventor, specifying and publishing the nature of the invention. Should it come into general use during that term, the inventor is compensated by the payment of royalty; after which the invention becomes public property-the posses sion of mankind at large. Before the grant ing of patents was adopted, inventors were accustomed to make a mystery of their arts; they worked in secret, they placed nothing on record, and hence their knowledge often died with them. Thus, there is no doubt, many valuable inventions became for a time lost to the race, and human progress was retarded. The limited privilege conferred by a patent is surely not too great a price to pay for any invention of value; nor can it be necessary to despoil the inventor by applying to him the principles, not of free-trading, but of freebooting, in the alleged interest of the public.

* It is estimated that besides 96,000,000 tons of coal raised in 1865, 20,000,000 tons of small coal were left in the pits, or otherwise wasted. The late Nicholas Wood stated a few years since that the annual waste at the Hetton and Black Boy Collieries alone amounted to 160,000 tons ! (To be Continued.).



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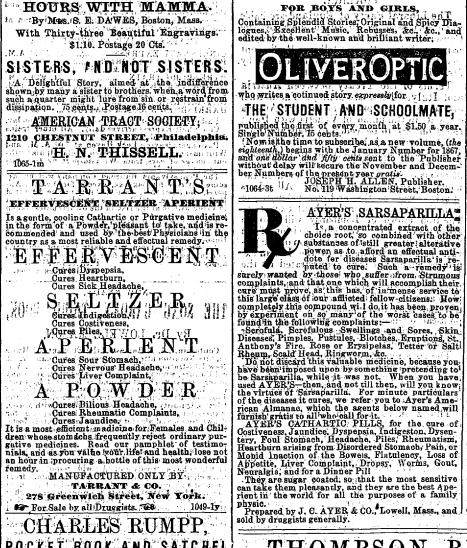
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