

Rural Economy.

FARMER'S PREMISES—A CONTRAST.

In passing through the country persons having a taste for, and observant of, rural affairs, will find contrasts in farm management which cannot fail to arrest attention. At one point will be encountered a farm dwelling and its surroundings so admirable in all their arrangements as to inspire a wish to make the acquaintance of the owner.

But a home, however tasteful as to house and lawn, is incomplete without a liberal allotment of ground for gardening purposes. Much of the domestic comfort of a family is derived from the products of the garden, hence the importance of rendering it capable of producing the greatest variety of fruits and vegetables.

The other farm buildings should be suitably placed and so arranged as to be easily accessible and suited to the uses for which they are intended. There is room here, as in the case of the dwelling, for the exercise of good taste in the matter of form and convenience of internal arrangement.

Fences should be seasonably repaired and kept in order till all chance of damage to crops from roaming stock is out off by the advent of winter. These are a few of the features pertaining to good farming, and which cannot be lost sight of without disorder and loss.

DAIRY FARMING.

Mr. Willard, a New York dairy farmer, has recently returned from an inspection of the dairy farming of England. He delivered an address before the New York State Agricultural Society on the subject, and his results are thus condensed by the editor of the Country Gentleman:

Although Mr. Willard had been surprised to find so little in English dairy farming which could be adopted here to advantage, there were, nevertheless, some important respects in which that example is worthy of imitation.

1. English grass lands carry more stock than ours, because freer from weeds, and more highly fertilized by the use of farm-yard manure, bones and irrigation, and because they seed more heavily and with a greater variety of seeds.

2. The English system of feeding accomplishes more than ours, because, having thus secured a larger and more productive area for grazing in summer, they still make up fully for the lack of hay in winter, by using cut straw, with oil cake—in this way obtaining also much richer manure, which brings additional elements to the soil, instead of only returning those derived from it in the grass crop.

3. The English dairy farmer has something to depend on, beside his dairy products only—he adopts a mixed system of husbandry, which is not only better for himself,

but better for his farm. This system includes two branches—the feeding of stock and the raising of grain. Dairy cows are kept fat and sold fat to the butcher. But still more important is the feeding of sheep, while pigs are also fattened to a considerable extent.

In other words, the secrets of the English dairy farmer's success, out of doors, are, feeding the land, feeding the cows, and increasing his resources to do both, by the cultivation of a portion of his farm and the high feeding of other stock. His income is thus made more than one-half greater than it could be from cheese-making only, and the combination of the various branches also enables him to keep the lands and cows in such condition that the return from cheese itself is perhaps fifty per cent. higher than could otherwise be the case.

Scientific.

UTILIZATION OF SEWAGE.

[COMMUNICATED.]

It is a well known fact that an immense quantity of valuable fertilizing matter is wasted by allowing the sewage of cities and towns to flow into streams and thus be lost, which, if applied to land, would add greatly to its productiveness. For the purpose of utilizing sewage, many experiments have been made; particularly in England, where manuring is more a necessity than on the rich soil of our country; but even here there is doubtless sufficient value in it to make its use desirable, in the older and more thickly settled portions of the country, or where the land is poor.

The following are two of the most successful means adopted for utilizing sewage:

THE DRY EARTH PROCESS.

By this plan dry earth is made to absorb the moisture and volatile matter. When applied to closets, dry earth is substituted for water, and they are so arranged that a quantity is thrown over the deposit whenever the closet is used. Another and cheaper plan is, to have a vessel containing dry earth at hand and throw a scoopful into the closet after using it. In a school attended by seventy boys, the water closets were so offensive that their removal became a matter of necessity and dry-earth closets discharging into a tank were substituted. After this arrangement, there was no smell whatever, even in the removal of the accumulations of each month. This was done by a farmer who paid ten shillings per month for the privilege, and furnished the dry earth.

In India this plan is adopted in the public buildings—jails, barracks, &c., with entire success, there being no offensive smell from the drainage treated with dry earth or ashes, during the time it is accumulating, or when being removed.

An experiment is now being made, of cleansing the city of Lancaster, England, by the dry-earth process. The earth, after being used, is conveyed to a shed, where it is thoroughly dried by artificial heat and returned to be used again. This is repeated four or five times. The compost then becomes a most valuable manure. There is no offensive smell from the drying of compost or from it when dried. It requires about four pounds of dry earth per individual per day.

This plan may be readily adopted upon farms, where no other preparation will be necessary than a receptacle for the compost where it can be kept dry, with dry earth at hand that may be applied at once. It may remain in the receptacle for three or four months, in which time an ordinary farm will collect a ton or more of most valuable fertilizing matter, and all unpleasant odor from cess-pools and their cleansing will be avoided, as also the waste of much valuable matter in the liquid, which, in ordinary wells, flows off through the earth. A quantity of dry earth or ashes thrown into cess-pools will prevent exhalations from them.

IRRIGATING LAND WITH SEWAGE.

This is the mode adopted for utilizing and purifying sewage in a number of instances. In some cases the land upon which it is applied, is levelled and underdrained; the sewage is filtered, and the liquid part applied by being pumped through pipes and sprinkled by hose or sprinkling carts. In other instances, the land has had no preparation except the cutting of channels; the sewage has been applied just as it was discharged, without any preparation, and no attention has been required except that necessary to keep open the drains and to direct the flow of the sewage upon the land. This plan is carried out near Edinburg with

success. Part of the sewage of the city is passed upon sandy soil, which before was almost barren, but now yields large quantities of grass. The privilege of cutting this grass has been sold by "roup" for over \$200 per annum.

There are objections to passing the sewage upon the land without any preparation, as floating masses frequently stop the drains and offensive exhalations are produced by their decomposition.

The most approved plan is to pass the sewage through a strain or filter where the solid and insoluble parts are deposited; these are then mixed with earth or ashes, and carted upon this land, where the fertilizing effect is found to be equal to the same quantity of the best stable manure. The soluble parts are conducted upon the land which is to be irrigated. When from 20 to 50 gallons of water per inhabitant is passed out with the sewage, it is found to produce the most satisfactory results. Storm water should be kept out of the sewers if possible. The land will generally require but little preparation other than cutting the channels to carry the liquid on and off. When the process is carefully conducted, the liquid will flow off the land limpid and inodorous. The amount of land necessary to purify sewage is from one to two acres for every one hundred inhabitants. Italian rye-grass produces the best crops; the yield is from twenty to sixty tons to the acre, requiring cutting from five to seven times a season. From twenty-five acres upon which the sewage of a part of Worthing, England, was distributed, the crop of grass cut from April to December, 1865, yielded a profit of £384 after paying all expenses of attention, taxes, &c. At this time the works were incomplete and the supply of sewage irregular, and sometimes deficient in quantity. The first cut produced twenty tons of grass to the acre.

There are many cities and towns in this country so situated that their sewage could be readily applied upon land and utilized to great advantage.

The good results arising from proper drainage are not appreciated, or there would scarcely be a village without its system of sewage, particularly where they have a constant supply of water under pressure, so that water closets might take the place of cess-pools, and house and stable drainage, instead of lying festering in gutters and pools, so objectionable and deleterious to health, might be conveyed off underground and made to stimulate vegetation. The effect of draining upon health, will appear from the following statements in regard to two towns in England, Salisbury and Ely. In the first, before it was sewered, the deaths were twenty-eight annually in a thousand; after being drained, twenty-one in a thousand. In the latter town before being sewered, twenty-five and two-thirds; afterwards, twenty and two-thirds, in a thousand.

Public institutions are generally so situated that the sewage could be readily utilized by gravity at a small expense. In some of the English institutions it is collected into a reservoir, and pumped up and distributed upon the kitchen gardens.

Where farm-buildings have a constant supply of water, it will be found desirable to use the water closet and utilize the entire house drainage for irrigation, thus saving much valuable matter, now a nuisance and to a great extent wasted. Grass would be produced by such irrigation which could be cut all through the summer. This would be of great advantage to milk cows, who eat the grass with great avidity and when fed upon it yield a large amount of rich milk. There need be no apprehension that the sewage will, in any way, injure the milk, as it can only be appropriated by the roots of the grass when in perfect solution. P. M.

HAIR BRUSHED BY MACHINERY.

The Barber—ian machine mentioned below (for a wonder not a Yankee invention) is likely to become popular if all who try it speak as highly in its favor as the New York Gazette:

About fifteen months ago Mr. J. A. Westlich, at the Everett house, on Fourth Avenue, introduced into his barber shop the English invention known as Camp's patent rotary hair brushing apparatus. Mr. E. Hoe, the celebrated manufacturer of printing presses, built the machinery, which consists of a large, anti-friction balance wheel, supported on a standard, from which runs a leather band, connected with a shaft that extends over the barbers chairs, the whole length of the shop; and attached to these bands are rotary brushes which are applied to the head. The power—steam, man, or donkey, whichever is most convenient—being applied to the wheel, away go the brushes, at the rate of several thousand revolutions a minute, and before a man is aware of the fact his hair is brushed and he is ready for the drawing-room. It is a fact; and the only complaint one makes about this patent combination of cast-iron, steam, mahogany, bristles and India-rubber, is that the fresh, unique and delightful sensation does not last long enough. A little boy told his mother the other day, "I've had my head brushed with a coffee-mill. A thing comes down from the ceiling, and before you know your head is brushed. It does every hair, from root to tip; all twirling about."

That of having one's hair well brushed is the most agreeable of minor sensations. Some barbers pat the head with bristles or whalebones until it bleeds; some plow and harrow through the scalp; others stroke the outside of the hair with a feeble penetrating touch, as if they were in the last stages of consumption. There is a way to do all things, and we should be anxious to find out the best way—even to brush one's hair. When we sit under a man whose hand is neither too heavy nor too light, a sense of soothing calm creeps over us, and we are just treading the borders of dreamland. Imagine, however, a steady and searching

stroke indefinitely extended; a brush which takes up your hair without any descending motion, traversing every part of the scalp, skipping nothing, and never scratching the skin. This is the art and perfection of hair brushing.

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