

## HOUSE AND FARM.

## Swamp Muck.

If the farmer had barn, pen and yard manure enough, no other would be needed. In this are all the elements of plants and all the properties suited to meliorate the soil, physically. With this, and a little lime to quicken its action and to neutralize the acidity of wet, sour soils, he could improve his land to almost any extent, and there would be an end of the manure question.

If, in the lack of home manure, he resorts to the portable manure, this is well, so far as mineral ingredients are considered, but there is a deficiency of organic matter. Manure must be in large quantity, as well as of good quality; there must be organic matter—animal or vegetable, or both, and there must be enough to affect the physical condition of soils—to render heavy soils light, and open—so that roots can penetrate easily and the air circulate freely, and to give light, sandy soils a loamy cast that will enable them to retain water.

Hence the value of swamp muck. If rightly manipulated and wisely applied, it will prove itself of considerable value, not solely as a feeder of plants, but mainly as a modifier of soils—making both sandy and clay soils easier to cultivate and more productive, and that, somewhat permanently—more so, at least, than is true of most fertilizers.

All analysts agree that old, black swamp muck contains just about the same ingredients as the solid excrements of horned cattle, when hay or grass fed, except that the soluble alkalies of the former—potash and soda and a little common salt—have been washed out, while they remain in the latter. This shows for swamp muck a very considerable value, since the addition of a little wood ash, very little common salt, and a little lime to neutralize its acidity—all costing but a trifle—make it almost precisely the equivalent of manure from under the stable window.

But we appeal from a scientific to a practical view of the subject. Many suspect the deductions of science, as if true everywhere else, but false in agriculture; while but few will doubt the testimony of sound, practical, successful farmers. Thousands of such have used swamp muck freely, and though costing something for labor and for desirable additions, they have found it to pay better than fertilizers they have purchased. We know many who testify to this effect, and we believe their testimony is reliable, as it agrees strictly with the scientific views on the subject.

As to the soil to which it is adapted: Of course it need not be applied to low, swampy land. These already contain enough of it, and to all more would be like carrying coal to New Castle, or offering strawberries in Hammonton, New Jersey, whence five car loads are shipped daily, for fifty days every year, in strawberry time, for New York and Philadelphia. By the way, on the sandy lands of New Jersey, strawberries are grown more by the aid of swamp muck, wherever it can be had, than of all other fertilizers, and are such in quality as cannot be beaten.

Next, on turf land, and on land frequently alternated with grass, and consequently well supplied with organic matter, swamp muck cannot be expected to be as immediately useful as on worn soils, where the organic matter is deficient. On all uplands—sandy, loamy or clayey—it is sure to report itself favorably in the crops, and, besides, to effect a permanent improvement of soils having too much sand or too much clay.

For gardening, farming and nursery purposes—to all of which it is well suited, better perhaps, to the nursery than to others—it should be dug if possible the year previous to its use, as early as August or September, and in a dry time. If thrown in high piles, the water will be drained out, and it will not again be saturated, and will be lighter to remove. As much as can be used, as an absorbent of the liquid excrements of the animals, should be carried to the stalls, folds, yards and pens, in as dry a state as possible,

to be used for that purpose. The salts in the liquid excrements will supply just what the muck wants to make it as good as the manure heap; and in this case no addition of potash, lime and salt will be required.

But if not brought to the barn and mixed with the manure by the feet of the animals, it is well to mix with one bushel of wood ash, one bushel of lime, and half a bushel of some cheap agricultural salt to each cart load. That will make it as good as the average barn manure for corn, grass, potatoes, or almost any other crop. For corn, it is excellent; for potatoes, nothing is better; it will insure a good crop, and a good quality, very little liable to the rot, if placed a small shovelful in the hill and covered, with the seed, four inches deep. If applied to grass land, the same addition as above can be recommended. But if to be applied to grass land, with no addition, and without composting with manure, it should be dug at least a year beforehand, and then spread on in the fall, to have the benefit of the winter frosts, snows and rains. The water from snow and rain contains considerable ammonia; and swamp muck is one of the most powerful retainers of ammonia for the use of crops.

For Indian corn there is nothing better than barnyard manure, into which dry swamp muck, equal to the manure itself, has been thrown during the fall, winter and spring, and there thoroughly mixed and composted under the feet of animals.

## Breeds of Hogs.

As there are so many farmers expressing their opinions in regard to the best breed of hogs, and as many of these come from persons directly interested in one breed or another, or are guessed at from very little actual experience, I propose, with your permission, to give my experience for the last ten years with the three most prominent breeds of hogs, viz: Chester Whites, Berkshires, and Poland-Chinas. Up to the year 1869 I had bred Chester Whites, with a little sprinkling of Suffolk, with very poor success. Every year many of the pigs were troubled with scurvy and inclined to "scalawag." If a sow became poor from sucking pigs, it was almost impossible to fatten her. Many a sow have I sold that brought less than half as much as the corn would bring that she had eaten. I should state that it has been my practice for the last ten years to buy a boar every year, and raised some years one hundred pigs for fattening purposes.

In the year 1869 I bought a full-blood Berkshire boar from the stock of a well-known breeder of Illinois, and used him on my Chester White sows. When my pigs began to come I was well pleased, and, for the first few months, I thought I had hit upon the right thing exactly. My pigs were all healthy, fat, well-formed, and active. Soon after this I began to discover that they were not growing as fast as my Chester Whites had done, and when I finally sold them they were far short of my old stock in weight.

In 1870 I bought a Poland-China boar, and the pigs from the stock suited me so well that I have used none but Poland-Chinas ever since. I find that the Poland-Chinas will fatten in a close pen, or a ten acre lot, or with stock hogs, and are at all times quiet and peaceable; are good breeders, good mothers, never get scurvy, are perfectly healthy, and sell as readily as any other hog. (I know that at times Berkshires bring a little more in Chicago than some other hogs, but it is when the light weights are in demand.)

Breeders of small breeds tell us that they will attain 300 or 400 pounds weight quicker, and on less feed, than those of a large breed. This is not so. The larger the breed the more rapid the growth; the more quiet a hog the best return he will make from what he is fed. Why does a Berkshire have so much larger quarters, better legs and a longer snout, than most other breeds? Because their limbs and snout are in constant use, and that develops muscles and quarters, and makes the legs strong and firm, and, of course, a hog always on the move

requires more feed to get the same growth than a quiet one.

If you want a hog for the harness, by all means get the Berkshire, as they certainly have the most action, and the best lungs of any hog in existence. They can run faster and farther, jump higher, eat quicker and do more fighting in the same length of time than any hog I ever owned.

I am well aware that the Berkshire is at this time a fashionable breed of hogs, but from all I can learn, those who think so much of the Berkshires have never owned a Poland-China. — *Conversence Prairie Farmer.*

## How to Dress Sheep.

Many of our country readers who kill their mutton will be interested in the following directions from the Gentleman's Magazine for dressing sheep:

It may be of interest to some of our country readers to learn how to dress sheep properly; because a great deal of the flavor depends upon how this operation is performed. We give directions how to avoid the ill flavor which arises from the absorption by the meat of the gas from the intestines, which, as the outside of the carcass cools, cannot escape, and is, therefore, absorbed by the flesh. There is a simple remedy. As soon as the animal is dead, let the hide be slit from the brisket to the tail and to the knees, by the quick motion of a sharp-pointed knife inserted beneath the skin. Strip the skin from the belly and the ribs and legs, so that it will be out of the way of the intestines. Then open the sheep immediately, and disembowel. All this ought to be the work of about one minute or two, for if it occupies five there will not be sufficient time for the carcass to cool sufficiently to cause any unpleasant taste. Then proceed to strip the skin from the back of the carcass. A sheep should be killed by thrusting a sharp knife through the neck, back of the windpipe, without touching it, however, but cutting the arteries; as soon as the knife is inserted it should be twisted around as if to make a round hole; there will be no mistake made in cutting the arteries, and the death of the animal will be comparatively painless and rapid.

## Unfettered Manure.

Many excellent farmers have an idea that manure to be most efficient in raising crops should be well rotted, but this is a mistake. Manure loses a heavy percentage. Fresh manure drippings, with animal urine, drawn directly from the stable on the land and ploughed under, is worth nearly double that which is decomposed to saponaceous consistency. When it is convenient for farmers to draw manure on corn ground from the stable as fast as it is made, it saves handling it twice and forwards the work in busy Spring time. No fear need be entertained that the atmosphere will carry off the strength of the manure if left on the surface. The only danger to be apprehended by this method will be in the case of the ground being frozen over and covered with snow and ice when the manure is applied; if upon sloping land the virtue of the manure might be washed away, but on level land there is no exception to this plan of operation during the entire Fall and Winter season.

## Paint for Rough Buildings.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* gives the following receipt for cheap coloring for rough buildings:

Take 2 oz. of salamoniac and 2 oz. of potash; dissolve these in three quarts of water; then add one quart raw linseed oil; then take, say 10 pounds dry red paint (that was what we used) and add water enough to put on with a white wash brush (we used fish pickle). Add one gill turpentine to the linseed oil. If red does not suit, add anything to alter the color. We need paint made as above on rough buildings twelve years ago, and it is almost or quite as bright now as when put on. To make the building look well, you ought to paint the corner boards with white lead and oil.

The ultimate ground of faith and knowledge is confidence in God.

## New Advertisements.

## SHERIFF'S SALES.

By virtue of sundry writs of Venditioni Exponas, filed and levied Facias, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas, in and for the County of Beaver, Pa., to be sold at public sale, at the Court House, in the Borough of Beaver, Pa., on Saturday, August 30th, 1873.

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Also, at the same time and place, all right, title, interest and claim of defendant, in and to all that certain lot of ground situated in the Borough of Beaver, Pa., bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point on the east line of Wm. Lyons, on the south by public road, and on the west by land of James Knowlton, containing 1/2 acre, more or less, on which is erected a one-story frame dwelling house, containing 4 rooms, with cellar underneath, also a two-story frame building, about 16 by 30 feet, used as a stable, and other necessary outbuildings. Good well of water at the door, and fruit trees on the lot; all enclosed by a fence.

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Seized and taken in execution as the property of J. H. Conover, et al., at the suit of J. H. Conover, et al.

Also, at the same time and place, all right, title, interest and claim of defendant, in and to all that certain lot of ground situated in the Borough of Beaver, Pa., bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point on the east line of Wm. Lyons, on the south by public road, and on the west by land of James Knowlton, containing 1/2 acre, more or less, on which is erected a one-story frame dwelling house, containing 4 rooms, with cellar underneath, also a two-story frame building, about 16 by 30 feet, used as a stable, and other necessary outbuildings. Good well of water at the door, and fruit trees on the lot; all enclosed by a fence.

Seized and taken in execution as the property of J. H. Conover, et al., at the suit of J. H. Conover, et al.

## New Advertisements.

## SHERIFF'S SALES.

By virtue of sundry writs of Venditioni Exponas, filed and levied Facias, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas, in and for the County of Beaver, Pa., to be sold at public sale, at the Court House, in the Borough of Beaver, Pa., on Saturday, August 30th, 1873.

At ten o'clock, A. M., the following property to-wit: All the right, title, interest and claim of defendant, in and to all that certain lot of ground situated in the Borough of Beaver, Pa., bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point on the east line of Wm. Lyons, on the south by public road, and on the west by land of James Knowlton, containing 1/2 acre, more or less, on which is erected a one-story frame dwelling house, containing 4 rooms, with cellar underneath, also a two-story frame building, about 16 by