

FARMER'S COLUMN.

Manures—How and When to Use Them.

The best method of using stable or barn-yard manure for corn or potatoes is to haul it fresh from the stable in the condition in which it exists in the vaults, spread it upon the plowed field, and harrow it in with a Geddes harrow. This is what is called "long manure," and is a form which, according to the opinions of many farmers, is unsuited to immediate use; also, it is objected, that in spreading fresh manure upon plowed fields and covering it only superficially with earth, much of it is lost by evaporation; or, more correctly speaking, certain volatile gaseous constituents rise on the breeze and are wafted away. In our view, both of these notions are incorrect. The excrement of animals must undergo a kind of fermentation, or putrefactive change, before it is assimilated by plants, and it is better that this be carried forward in the field, as there it is in contact with the soil, which is greedy to absorb all the products of the chemical change. Creative power thus bestowed upon dry earth produces absorptive capabilities. If a lump of fresh manure as large as a peck measure is placed upon a plowed field uncovered, and allowed to ferment or decay in the open air, the absorptive powers of the earth are such, that it will actually attract towards it ammoniacal and other gases, and thus rob the crops. A film of earth no thicker than the rind of an orange, placed over a lump of manure, will effectually prevent loss of manurial products, under all possible circumstances. It will be agreed then, that a harrow is equally as effective a plow in protecting manure in an open field. It is better to have the manure near the surface, as the rains can reach it, and dissolve the soluble salts, and by percolation carry them down to the hungry roots of plants. Long manure is not lost when deeply turned under by the plow, but the farmer does not secure the whole value of his dressing under this mode of treatment in any case and on some soils the loss is almost serious one. In the process of soap-making, it becomes necessary to set up a leach. Now, the farmer will not attempt to exhaust the tub of ashes of its potash by forcing water into the bottom and dipping the liquid off from the top. The natural percolating or exhausting process is done, in accordance with the laws of gravity. The soluble alkalis and salts are driven downwards, and in the case of the leach we must have a vessel ready to receive them at the bottom, and in the case of the same substances leached from manure, we must have the manure so placed that plant roots will be at hand to absorb them before they pass beyond their reach. Manure is never so valuable as when it is fresh. It then holds in association not only all the fixed soluble substances, natural to the solid excrement, but much that is of great value, found only in the liquid. It is in a condition to quickly undergo chemical change, and the gaseous, ammoniacal products secured are double those resulting from that which has been teathered in a heap out of doors for several months.—Boston Journal of Chemistry.

MAKING PIGS PROFITABLE.—A correspondent of the Western Rural describes his method of making pigs profitable as follows: I saw in your paper of a late date an inquiry as to the way by which to make pigs profitable. I would say in the first place, keep no more than are sufficient to eat what feed you have. If one pig will eat it, give it to him; if it better than to feed it to two. In the next place have a good, warm dry place for them to sleep in, with plenty of clean straw, changed twice a week. I raised nine pigs from a Suffolk sow and Chester boar, last year, fed on milk and corn mostly in the ear, and all the milk they would drink. They averaged 275 pounds dressed, when eight months old. Keeping hogs poor one year and fat the next, has expended with me years ago. I recollect having two pigs of a neighboring farmer in 1845. I fed mine well during winter, on corn and slops of house. He fed his so as to just keep them I've. After about four months I saw his pigs and said to him: "Your pig does not look as though they were of the same litter." He said they were, but that his would make as much pork in the fall as mine. I told him a fool it was time I knew it. I slaughtered mine when they were fourteen months old. One weighed 307, the other 441 pounds. He kept his one month longer, and one weighed 282, and the other 238 pounds. If I had not much milk, I should prefer corn, rye and oats, ground in equal parts, scalded and let stand until it ferments.

The Treatment of Sick Animals. The crying evil of the agriculture of this country is, that we have no good system of veterinary instruction. Except in the large cities, and indeed, in most of those, it is impossible to find a well-educated veterinary surgeon. Throughout the whole length and breadth of the land, our poor dumb brutes, condemned to suffer from diseases generally brought about by our own carelessness or neglect, are obliged to bear the still greater suffering of the barbarous treatment of common farmers and quacks, who know almost nothing of the organization of their bodies. As a natural consequence, violent purgatives, frightful blood-lettings, blisters and fire-brands, are applied without thought and without reason, entailing untold agony to the animal, and generally much loss to its owner. Of course, when an animal is sick, any farmer who is ignorant of what should be done ought to secure the best advice within his reach. But he should always retain so much control over the treatment as to resist resort to barbarous remedies, unless the unskilled practitioner can convince him that there is good reason for it; for, as a general rule, an animal left to the unguided curative processes of nature would come better out of its troubles than if subjected to the operation of brutal measures for the restoration of its health. With animals, as with men, there is far too much medicine-giving, blistering, and bleeding; and probably more are killed or permanently injured by these practices than are cured by them. Of course, in some desperate cases, they are necessary, but they should always be resorted to with caution, and with much hesitation. In all minor diseases,

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THE YOUNG FOLKS. Karl Katz. [CONCLUDED.] His first step was to look for the doorway through which he had followed his goat; but to his astonishment, not the least trace of an opening of any sort was to be seen. There stood the wall, without crack or crevice big enough for a rat to pass through. Again he paused and scratched his head. His hat was full of holes. "Why, it was new hat Shrove till!" said he. By chance his eye fell next on his shoes, which were almost new when he last left home; but now they looked so old, that they were likely to fall to pieces before he could get home. All his clothes seemed in the same sad plight. The more he looked, the more he pondered, the more he was at a loss to know what could have happened to him. At length he turned round, and left the wall to look for his flock. Slow and out of heart he wound his way among the mountain steps, through paths where his flocks were wont to wander: still not a goat was to be seen. Again he whistled and called his dog, but no dog came. Below him in the plain lay the village where his home was; so at length he took the downward path, and set out with a heavy heart and a faltering step in search of his flock. "Surely," said he, "I shall soon meet some neighbor, who can tell me where my goats are?" But the people who met him, as he drew near to the village were all unknown to him. They were not even dressed as his neighbors were and they seemed as if they hardly spoke the same tongue. When he eagerly asked each as he came up, after his goats, they only stared at him and stroked their chins. At last he did the same too, and what was his wonder to find that his beard was grown at least a foot long! "The world," said he to himself, "is surely turned upside down, or if not, I must be bewitched!" and yet he knew the mountain, as he turned round again, and looked back on its woody heights; and he knew the houses and cottages also, with their little gardens, as he entered the village. All were in the places he had always known them in; and he heard some children too (as a traveler that passed by was asking his way,) call the village by the very same name he had always known it to be.

Again he shook his head, and went straight through the village to his own cottage. Alas! It looked sadly out of repair; the windows were broken, the roof of its hinges, and in the courtyard lay an unknown child in a ragged dress playing with a rough, toothless old dog whom he thought he ought to know, but who snarled and barked in his face when he called to him. He went in at the open doorway; but he found all so dreary and empty, that he staggered out again like a drunken man, and called his wife and children loudly by their names; but no one heard, at least no one answered him.

A crowd of women and children soon flocked around the strange-looking man with the long grey beard; and all broke upon him at once with the questions, "Who are you? What is it that you want?" It seemed to him so odd to ask other people, at his own door, after his wife and children, that, in order to get rid of the crowd, he named the first man that came into his head. "Hans the blacksmith?" said he. Most held their tongues and stared; but at last an old woman said, "He went these seven years ago to a place that you will not reach to day." "Fritz the tailor, then?" "Heaven rest his soul!" said an old bold-upon crutches; "he has lain there these ten years in a house that he'll never leave."

Karl Katz looked at the old woman again, and shuddered, as he knew her to be a strangely altered face. All which to ask further questions was gone; but to ask a young woman made her way through the gaping thicket, with a baby in her arms, and a little girl of about three years old clinging to her other hand. All three looked to the very image of his wife. "What is thy name?" asked he, wildly. "Liese!" said she. "And your father's?" "Karl Katz!" "Heaven bless him!" said she; "but, poor man! he is lost and gone. It is now full twenty years since a sought for him day and night on the mountain. His dog and his flock came back, but he never was heard of any more. I was then seven years old."

Now the whole village had flocked around; the children laughed, the dogs barked, and all were glad to see neighbor Karl alive and well. As to where he had been for the twenty years was a part of the story at which Karl shrugged up his shoulders; for he never could very well explain it, and seemed to think the less that was said about it the better. But it was plain enough that what dwelt most on his memory was the noble wife that tickled his mouth while the knights played their game of nine-pins.

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