Agricultural.

THE POINT OF SUCCESS IN APPLYING MANURE.

The point to consider in the application of raw manure is its speedy fermentation. This is effected readily by surface application, in which case it undergoes decomposition in a short time. The sun has a direct influence upon it, which causes this. Hence it is that surface application is so highly beneficial, for without decomposition there is little benefit in manure; it is a hindrance rather. But, the heat decomposing, and the rains washing it in the work is done.

The next best thing, if not equally as good, and even better perhaps, is to apply on the surface of ploughed ground and harrow in. This mixes it with the top soil and exposes it to the direct rays of the sun, the soil increasing, if anything, the heat, and this, in connection with the increased moisture, increasing and accelerating the fermentation. This practice never fails. It is always found to be good—and good whether it be rotted or not, providing it can be properly mixed with the soil.

The secret in both these cases is, the sun has its effect. Ploughed in deep, there is a different result not always successful, especially in cold soils, or in wet seasons. Heat, and proper hygrometric condition are necessary.

This, then, is the secret, that we must expose our manures to heat, and the nearer the surface, the more heat and the more fermentation. We have had our best success with manure harrowed in.—On meadows, top-dressing is the only way; and the time of application, it is agreed, is the fall or latter part of the summer, when the heat has still its effect and the rains help it.

But deep ploughing under will keep the manure as it goes into the ground, and will put it, if left there, out of reach of the grasses and light-rooting grains. It is simply bid. It can be of benefit deep in the ground only when the soil is porous and of a sandy and dark or heat-attracting nature and the season a warm one. In such summers we have known the best of effect, where long manure was plentifully used, and made a bed for the Indian corn, or roots.

The safe and certain way, however, is top-application. There may be some loss, which may not be the case where the ground covers the manure. But harrowed in well, if not too long, or plowed shallow—a mere covering up where there is much straw—and there will be a certain and immediate benefit; immediate if applied in the heat of summer, and never falling in its effect.

For corn, in a black sandy soil warmly located, we prefer to plough under. For roots also. Otherwise not.

GOOD SUGGESTIONS.—The advice contained in the following paragraphs is from an experienced poultry raiser, who made both money and reputation by following this branch of domestic industry. His suggestions, if followed, will enable those who raise poultry to keep young and profitable fowls instead of a great number of old and feeble fowls which are not worth the food they consume. A pullet hatched early in the spring begins to lay at the approach of winter, and pullets hatched late in the summer begin to lay in the ensuing spring, and it is by saving a certain portion of pullets from the early and late broods, that you make sure of winter eggs, a few early hatched chickens for catering the highest markets, and a numerous flock of chickens in the warm months when rearing is less precarious.

The hen continues in her prime two, and at most, three years; therefore save every year pullets equal to a third of your brood stock, selling off at a trifling price the same number of aged hens, or offering them up in a stewed dish or well baked pie. However I have no scruple about keeping a heavy, symetrically made, splendidly feathered "partlet" for four years, for the sake of her stock.—Many farmers grumble about their poultry, from not paying attention to such a simple matter as their not looking over their brood stock once a year, drafting all the old hens known by the developed scales on their legs, and reserving from the market basket the most promising young pullets raised during the season.

PREPARING THE FLOWER GARDEN FOR WINTER.—Nearly all the handsome roses need slight protection. The yellow Harrison however does not. Loosening the dirt slightly on one side of the rose bush, bend it gently and slowly over, and placing the foot or some weight to hold it in its place, give it a light covering of earth. If you wish your bushes to come out clean in the spring, throw over them a few leaves, or clean hay, and then cover with dirt. Where a great many stalks, let two persons, each taking the end of a pole or board, press it against the whole clump and carry them over together; and then one can stand on the pole until the other has put on sufficient weight and covering to hold them in their place. Cover your pinks with a bunch of leaves or hay, on which lay a board or brick, or billet of wood, to hold in it its place. Honeysuckles are hardy, and may be kept in position. The trumpet flower perhaps is an exception. The snowball, lilac, flowering almond, and phlox need no protection. All out-door plant which are regarded of doubtful hardiness may be slightly covered in the same way, using either leaves or soil. With a little labor expended in this way, the more tender and showy varieties of roses may kept with perfect safety, and the profusion of their blossoms will repay all the labor.

HOW MANY CABBAGES PER ACRE.—The great cabbage growers about New York City generally calculate upon ten thousand heads per acre, allowing four superficial feet to each plant, which gives a surplus of three thousand feet for missing plants. We suppose the crop may average five cents a head, giving $500 an acre, which, considering it is a second or third crop of the season, affords a pretty good return. Cabbages often follow peas, with which radishes or lettuce has been grown; and ground from which an early crop of potatoes has been taken is often planted with late cabbages. The soil for this crop must be rich and manure used unsparingly. Hog manure is not approved in this vicinity; it is said that it produces "club-footed cabbages." The gardeners prefer rotation for this crop, though we have known cabbages grown upon the same spot a dozen years in succession. Near a city there is no doubt about the profitableness of the crop, and we believe it a valuable one for food for cattle and sheep. It increases the flow of milk, but does not improve the quality. Irrigation is valuable where cabbages are grown, as they require a vast quantity of water as well as manure, with deep tillage and thorough cultivation.—*Tribune.*

FROST BITTEN FEET.—These are in order at this season of the year, in all careless families, and in some that are quite careful. This is one of the cases in which an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. But if the ounce has not been taken, and the frost has, much depends upon timely remedies. The feet should be put immediately into cold water and thawed out very gradually. The sudden thawing does more injury than the frost. Apply sweet oil or the glycerine ointment mentioned in the last month's Basket, to the injured parts, and keep quiet until the system has time to repair damages.—*American Agriculturist.*

☞ When you ride or drive out this cold weather, you should take along your horse blanket and cover your horse with it when you stop to hitch. If diseases and cuts him down in flesh to drive him until his blood has become heated, and and then allow him to cool off so rapidly as he would without this protection and care. Be kind and merciful to this noble animal. He helps earn your bread and his too; therefore good usage of him is dictated by enlightened conscience and a good reason.

FEED FOR MILCH COWS IN WINTER.—E. Naylor, Ohio. The quantity depends upon the size of the cow. She should have as much hay as she will eat up clean, and at least four quarts of Indian meal per day, or its equivalent in other kinds of grain. Roots are exceedingly desirable for milch cows. We err in giving too little oily and succulent or moist food to cows in milk.—*Am. Ag.*

☞ Fresh strawberries have appeared in New Orleans.

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