Agricultural.

Manures.

It is a common practice among farmers to suffer their barn-yard dung to ferment until the fibrous matter of its vegetable composition is all lost—until the manure is cold and soft. Independent of all the general theoretical opinions against this practice, there are many plain facts which show that it is a great loss to every farmer. During the extreme fermentation necessary to the perfect decomposition of all manures, a large quantity both of fluid and generous matter is lost. This reduces the weight of the dung—and the most valuable part which is its heat, by flying in to the air with these fluids, is also lost. Heat, by being retained by moisture, is capable of nourishing many kinds of vegetables; it germinates their seeds when excited in the earth, and assists the plant in its first stage of growth, when most liable to disease. An incipient fermentation is of great use in the dunghill, but it is better that there be no fermentation than too much. From what we have now stated every well-instructed farmer will see the utility of applying manure to the soil *as soon as* fermentation has begun, so that little may escape its full action upon the soil, and as little more may be lost in the barn-yard. In fermentation beneath the ground the fluids produced are instantly applied to the organs of the plants, and consequently more likely to be efficient while it is yet warm, than manure that has gone through this process. The pernicious effluvia disengaged from substances in the processes of putrefaction seemed to point out the propriety of burying them in the soil where they can do good as food for future crops. In this way the natural subsistence of plants is prepared where it can be used, and all that would offend the senses for injure the health is converted by gradual processes into forms of beauty and use: the very nauseous smell of the manure is thus rendered a constituent of the aroma of the most sweet-smelling flowers.

In cases when manure cannot be immediately applied to crops, &c., the destructive fermentation ought to be prevented as much as possible by defending its surface from the influence of the atmosphere. A compact marl, or a covering of very tenacious clay, offers a very good protection against the air: watering the compost heaps is often recommended as a check to fermentation; but this latter is so inconsistent with all chemical knowledge that for the above purpose I entirely reject it. It in reality only cools the manure for a short time, moistens being the principal agent in all fermentations. Dry matter will not ferment. Water being as necessary as air to this process, to supply an agent which will hasten its decay. When manure is to be kept any length of time, the situation is of great importance. It should first of all be defended from the sun. That it should be under sheds is another important consideration, or if in some places this cannot be, that the heap be placed upon the north side or a wall or some place of protection. Having now treated of the management of manures while in the barn yard, I will speak of the time and manner of applying them to the soil. All winter manure should be hauled out early in the spring and ploughed in as soon as possible upon all grounds not used for pasture. For conducting the business of agriculture to the full advantage, the farmer must pursue objects which systematically embrace such a course of particulars as follow and depend upon each other for the attainment of the great design of husbandry. It is not immediate produce alone that must be aimed at, for whilst we desire full crops, it is still necessary that the land be preserved at the same time in full vigor. Observations on the state of common farming fix the opinion that no random pursuits tend to insure a succession of advantageous farming for any length of time.

Hog Beds.—Now (the husking season) is the time to secure the best and most durable under beds. All the inner husks of the corn should be saved for this purpose. True, it takes a great many to make a bed, when once the sack is filled it is a bed for life, and it is the lightest and softest thing of the kind that one could desire. The husks curl up and they do not lay down afterwards.—Moreover no insects ever lodge in them, as vermin do in straw. They are perfectly clean; and being of a strong texture, they will not wear out for years. We regard a good husk bed as cheap at $5. A young married couple, to the end of life, however long, will have no occasion to fill a new under bed, if they once have their sacks filled with good, soft, well dried corn husks. We had all our sacks filled fifteen years ago, and they are to this day as "good as new."—*Maine Cultivator.*

Sheep.—These gentle creatures, who both feed and cloth us, require protection, under shelter, during the winter. The better they are kept, the greater and more beautiful will be their fleeces—the more money they will put into your pockets—Their shed, which should be tight, and face the south, and open upon a yard, must be bedded every few days with straw, oats to keep them clean. They should each receive about three pounds of hay daily—if given in gill of oats, bean, or pea meal daily, two and a half pounds of hay will answer, or the same quantity of well cured fodder or straw. Two pounds of roots, to be cut up, and two pounds of long provender will answer for a day's ration a head. A trough with *salt* strewn over tar, should at all times, be accessible to them. If, however, you supply them with pine boughs to browse on, you may dispense with the tar. The yard, which the sheep have access to, should first receive a foot of earth in depth, fashioned into a dish shape, which should be kept covered with straw, from time to time, for the double purpose of adding to the comfort of the sheep, and absorbing their urine, and admixture with their solid droppings. Sheep dung and sheep urine thus protected from deterioration, is among the richest manures, and we venture the assertion, that a flock of one hundred sheep be furnished with the right kind of material, would make manure enough, from November till May, to fertilize fifteen acres of land.

To Destroy Burdocks.—The burdock is sometimes a very troublesome plant, and from its long continuance in places where it is not wanted, we suppose it is regarded by some as difficult to exterminate. Mr. D. Fisher, a correspondent of the *Boston Cultivator*, says that the Burdock if not permitted to go to seed for two years, will disappear. The first year's growth from the seed does not produce seed; in the autumn of the second year, having furnished their stock of seed, they die. If they are in cultivated land, they may spring up the third year from the seed brought to the surface by the plow or otherwise, as they, with many other small seeds, do not germinate or decay, unless they are within a few inches of the surface of the ground.