

Farmer's Department.

Frost as a Manure.

We know of no treatment so directly beneficial for almost every class of soils, as that of throwing up land in narrow ridges in the fall or early winter. There are few soils worth cultivating at all, that do not contain more or less materials which can be made available to plants by the combined action of air and frost.

Take two plots of heavy soils, side by side, and let one lie unmoved till spring, while the other is deeply plowed in autumn, and the result will be very visible in the spring crop. But the greatest advantage is important. To secure the most advantage, a single furrow should be thrown and another back furrow directed upon it so as to produce a high ridge, then another ridge is to be made in the same manner with a deep dead furrow between the two.

In the spring it will only be necessary to run a plow once or twice the centre of each ridge, and then level the whole down with a heavy harrow. Another advantage in this process is, that when land is thus prepared it dries out and warms several days earlier in the spring.

Will Ashes Dissolve Bones?

Owing to the indisposition of farmers generally to use sulphuric acid in reducing bones to pulp or powder, many persons knowing the value of the bones cast away from the kitchen, of every farm house as worthless, have racked their brains to discover some means of turning them into account.

The answer is, no, not in the proper sense of that term, not as water dissolves sugar or salt. But if it be asked whether ashes will reduce bones to a condition in which they will be speedily available to plants, the answer is, yes. The Hon. Philip Pusey, ascertained several years ago, and after carefully experimenting upon the discovery three or four years, published in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society, that bones, if placed in a pile and covered over with wood ashes, of fossil coal, and leached ashes, common soil, or sand even, will heat and crumble to powder.

A friend of ours, in whom we have entire confidence, informs us that seven years ago he fell into the practice of reducing bones by means of ashes, by a sort of a fortunate blunder. Being at the head of a very large family, in which fresh meat was largely consumed, he found that his Irish cook was in the habit of throwing all the bones out of the back window.

HINTS FOR MARCH—PRUNING.—During this and the succeeding month, the fruit trees should be examined, and whatever pruning is necessary, got through with. Dead or decaying branches should invariably be cut out low enough to secure live branches, and if the limb be a larger one, it is better to trim it off after the saw with a sharp knife or hatchet.

branches, and all spray cut clean out in the body of the tree. Dwarf and espalier trees require somewhat different pruning, but most of which should be performed in the summer, all that is required at this season being to shorten in the unproductive shoots of established trees within two or three inches of their length, taking care to preserve the fruit-buds, which are readily known by their round plump form.

Peach trees are much benefited by pruning, as if commenced while young, the tree will always remain bushy and "close," while, if left to itself, it will become in a short time an ugly straggling tree, with a few bearing shoots at the top. Cut out all weak spindly growth, except where wanted to fill up a vacancy, and shorten in the leading shoot of each branch.

The native grape vines that have remained uncovered and unpruned, may be done at any time. The fruit will come much finer and suffer less from mildew and other pests, if ample space is left for the development of the foliage. Under no pruning should the branches be nearer each other after they are done than eighteen inches—three feet is better.

The black currant is much neglected in this country. To grow it to perfection requires the branches thinned, and occasionally the older ones taken out.

GRASS LAND—GRASS SEED.—The following judicious observation from the New England Farmer are no less applicable to Pennsylvania, than to New England.

It has frequently been remarked by practical men, that, in laying lands down to grass, the bestowment of a few extra pounds of seed, is not to be considered by any means as a useless expenditure of capital, but the reverse.

WINTER BUTTER.—In many parts of our country the art of making good butter in winter is very imperfectly understood, and by some dairy women thought to be entirely impossible. But it can be done in December as well as in May.

GOOD MANURE, BEST STOCK FOR FARMERS.—A Farmer "well do" in the world, asked us the other day what we considered the best stock in which to invest his surplus funds, whether Railroad, Bank, or State Stocks?

BAILEY & NEVINS, WHOLESALE & RETAIL DEALERS IN PROVISIONS, GROCERIES, YANKEE NOTIONS, TOYS, &c. Most kinds of country produce taken in exchange for goods.

TO KEEP BRITANNIA-METAL BRIGHT.—Dip a clean woolen cloth into the best and cleanest lamp-oil, and rub it hard, all over the outside of your Britannia-ware. Then wash it well in strong soap-suds, and afterwards polish with finely powdered whiting and a buckskin.

Miscellaneous.

THE "FARM JOURNAL" FOR 1855. EDITED BY J. L. DARLINGTON. Assisted by a corps of the best writers in Pennsylvania.

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Medical.

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Give them to some patient who has been prostrated with bilious complaint; or to the best-looking and strongest man with strength again; or to the longest-lived man with strength again; or to the longest-lived man with strength again.

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