Agricultural.

Mischievous Old Errors.

In the midst of change, improvement and reform, quite a number of questionable old notions continue to be followed, even now, when the very erroneous character of some of them has been generally acknowledged. Of this character is the rigid adherence of drivers of horses to that useless and injurious rule of old times, the check-rein. Its use with draft horses is positively cruel. When a horse is drawing a heavy load, and particularly up hill, he needs the utmost freedom of lungs and wind, and this he can never have with a tight check-rein. That the check-rein prevents a horse from stumbling is more than doubtful; on the contrary, by elevating his eyes, it prevents him from seeing clearly where to place his foot. When a horse does stumble, he is far less likely to go down when his head is left free. In England, where they are far ahead of us in everything pertaining to horses, the check-rein has been abolished; the last surrender being that of the artillery and commissarait trains of the British army, the change having been made by Sir George Burgoyne, the Commander in Chief, and he testifies to the beneficial effects attending it. In New York City many of the finest equipages are driven without the check-rein, and a few humane people have also thrown it out of use here. The old-fashioned "blinkers," or blind halters are also useless if not positively injurious, by rubbing the lids of the horses' eyes; and many experienced horsemen long ago came to the conclusion that horses are more easily alarmed at what they hear and do not see, because intelligent animals, if they can only see the objects, which when unseen or imperfectly seen, tend to frighten them, they are more readily calmed.

Never Plough Soil when it is Wet.

The *Northampton Farmer*, in a handy article under this caption, thus kindly talks:

We have often urged the attention of the farmers to this subject as one of very great importance. Any traveler among our farming districts can see large tracts of land that have been ploughed when wet and unfit to be worked, by observing large heavy clods of earth, which in the hot season, become like a heated brick, burning all the roots of grain or other products near it. Besides this evil, no seed can vegetate and grow well upon soil thus cultivated, nor can that soil give back as much nutrition to it if ploughed when in right condition, and upon a warm and sunny day, when warmth can penetrate into the soil, and thus greatly benefit it.

We are confident that farmers lose one ten to forty per cent. of their crop by inattention to this matter. By a little care at time to plough by moonlight the soil and selecting good sunny days, the soil will send up its voice in a halo of dewdrop clouds that will wreathe the ploughman with its approval of his good sense.

The figure with which our grave contemporary closes its suggestion strays a little mixed. How "the soil uttered up its voice in a halo of dewdrop clouds that will wreathe the ploughman with its approval of his good sense," is a question which we would be pleased to refer to the poets, who are permitted a license in language and a justification in a metaphor which it is well for prose-writers to neither attempt to imitate or explain.

But that ploughing when water is standing, or when the ground is very wet, is an injury to the crop, that is to be proved in such soil, there is no doubt.

The best farmer in the circle of our acquaintance always waits till his land is quite dry before putting in the plough at all, and his theory is to make the soil as fine as possible by frequent harrowings on the very day that it is turned up to the sun, and if possible, sow or plant the seed before a drop of rain settles the loosened soil.—*Health and Home.*

Save the Hen Manure.

The value of this article as a fertilizer is very generally overlooked. In most cases, it is allowed to go to waste. The hens roost on trees, or fences, or some out-door place, where their droppings cannot be gathered up, and in numerous instances, when this is not the case, the accumulation of their droppings is looked upon as a nuisance hard to be endured. But occasionally we find one who knows its value. The following, given by a correspondent, is in point. Says he:

"I have a field of corn which grew very slowly, and the prospect for a crop was very disbouraging. A neighbor offered me the droppings in his hen roost. His offer was gladly accepted, and two large wagon loads of manure was the result. This was liberally applied, a handful to each hill, as far as it would go. Two weeks after this application, there was a great difference between the manured and the unmanured portion; the manured part was much larger than the yellow, sick looking, unmanured portion. At length, many good farmers expressed great wonder at the vast difference between the two portions. The part manured yielded three times as much as the unmanured per acre, and of much superior quality."

We have corresponding testimony from other sources relative to the value of hen manure, not only for the corn crop, but also many kinds of vegetables. Its value being beyond question, it should be preserved and applied as well as other manure.—*Exchange.*

Bred Narrow Cows.—Mr. John W. Temple, of Lionville, Chester county, Pennsylvania, thus speaks of the product of his common native cows:

The year past they brought on an average something more than a net average of $100 each. I feed about four quarts of meal per day before turning out to pasture, and then each of gradually. During the winter we have our milk room heated to a regular, moderate heat, about sixty degrees, by a wood stove, into which we put large chunks, which cannot be split for other stoves. On one occasion I churned in a common old fashioned churn in three and a half minutes, and brought excellent butter. We are particular to put nothing but cream in cream cans, i. e. no milk. Wheat screenings and rye, fed with corn and oats, I believe to be the best food."

A correspondent of the Scotch Farmer, speaking of the Ayrshire cows, says: "Their milk is very rich in quality, and in quantity, considering the size of the animal, it is very large. Some of the cows will give 18 quarts of milk per day, and I have seen a cow that gave 20 quarts of milk per day, and I have seen a cow that gave 20 quarts of milk per day, and I have seen a cow that gave 20