

Agricultural.

From the Genesee Farmer.

Cultivation of Indian Corn.

The importance of Indian corn to the American farmer, nothing need be said. It is of more value, even in a national point of view, than wheat. No cereal cultivated in temperate latitudes affords per acre so much nutritious food for man and beast. In one sense, too, it is a fallow crop, as it affords an opportunity of cleaning the land by the use of the horse-hoe while growing. On the rich, new lands of the West, we may apply to corn what has been well said of the turnip in Great Britain—"It is the sheet anchor of our agriculture." We fear, however, that it differs from the turnip in one very important respect. Its growth does not increase the amount of nitrogen or ammonia on the farm. It is a crop for rich land—land that is too rich, too low, and too loose for wheat. It will flourish on the best wheat land; but wheat will not succeed well on the best corn land. To grow corn on land that will produce good wheat, is not, as a general rule, to be commended.

We have said that corn will succeed on land too low for wheat. This is true; but corn requires a dry soil. It is a mistake to suppose that all high land is dry and all low land wet. Mr. SWAN, near Geneva, N. Y., who has laid over fifty miles of drain-tiles on his farm, found that the highest parts of his farm required as much again draining as the lower portions. On low land, a few open ditches are often sufficient to carry off all the water; but on a springy hill-side, thorough under-draining is necessary.

Land for corn must be dry. We recollect walking through a magnificent field of corn on the thoroughly under-drained farm of our friend JOHN JOHNSON. One of the under-drains was choked up, and there the crop was a failure. Corn delights in a loose, dry, warm soil. If it is surcharged with water, all the sunshine of our hottest summers can not make it warm, and all the manure that can be put on it will not make the corn yield a maximum crop. In passing along the various railroads, we have often been saddened to see thousands of acres of land planted to corn which, by a little under-draining, would have produced magnificent crops of this grandest of cereals, but which presented a miserable spectacle of yellow, stunted, half-starved plants, struggling for very life. We have ever been willing to apologize for the shortcomings of American farmers. We know the difficulties under which many of them labor. We do believe them to be, as a whole, "intelligent and enterprising." But these sickly corn fields are well calculated to create a very different impression. We have frequently to repeat the German proverb—"To know is not to be able." These farmers know how to raise good corn, but they are not always able to put in practice improved methods of cultivation. Many, however, might do better than they do. The country is in an embarrassed condition. Willing hands can not find labor. Good crops alone can save us from still greater poverty and suffering. One good harvest would set the wheels of trade and manufacturing industry in motion, and usher in a glad-some period of national prosperity. But it is vain to hope for good crops without good cultivation.

Farmers know how to raise good corn—know how to plant and cultivate. We can do little except to urge upon them, as a patriotic duty, the necessity of putting forth their best efforts the coming season. Our citizens and villages are thronged with idle hands; set them to work. Do what you can toward draining the land. Plow it well, and prepare a good seed-bed. Mark out the land both ways, so as to plant in straight rows, and then use the cultivator freely. Do not suffer a weed to grow and rob the corn of food and moisture. Constant stirring of the soil decomposes its organic matter and renders available the food of plants lying latent in it; it enables it to attract ammonia and to condense moisture from the atmosphere, while it furnishes a loose and warm bed for the roots to grow in.

We have spent considerable time and money in experimenting with the various fertilizers of Indian corn. We know the importance of the subject. But we are satisfied that, for the country at large, good plowing, proper preparation of the land, early planting, and good and thorough after-culture, are of far greater importance. Throughout the vast corn-growing region of America, if we can remove stagnant water, prepare the land properly, plant in good season, and use the horse-hoe freely, the soil in the majority of cases is rich enough to produce fair and remunerative crops of corn. Still, unlike wheat and other cereals, it is impossible to make land too rich for corn; and it should be borne in mind that it costs no more to plant and cultivate a crop of corn that will yield sixty bushels per acre, than one that yields only thirty bushels. Of course, the most profitable land for corn is that which is naturally rich—too rich for wheat; but, in the New England States, very profitable crops are raised on poor soil by the aid of heavy manuring. LEST BARTLETT says: "Of thirty-five crops of Indian corn offered for premium in Massachusetts, the average profit over all expenses exceeded \$51 per acre." It is the opinion of many good farmers, that manure is more profitably applied to corn than to any other crop. An excellent farmer in this neighborhood thinks the cheapest way to raise corn is on clover sod. He lets the clover grow as long as possible in the spring, and then

turns it under just before planting the corn. The clover furnishes manure, and he says the worms also feed on it and seldom injure the corn. A handful of plaster scattered on the hill before the first hoeing, is generally considered profitable in this section.

Grubs in the Heads of Sheep.

This disease, which is sometimes very troublesome, is caused by an insect, (*Cestrus ovis*) which is very similar to the horse-bot or gad-fly (*Cestrus equus*). It deposits its eggs about August, in the nostrils of the sheep. By the warmth and moisture of the parts, they are almost immediately hatched, and the little maggots crawl up the nose and find their way to the frontal cavities of the head. In the act of passing up the nose, they seem to give great annoyance to the sheep, which run about furiously, seeming almost mad. Here they remain, feeding on the mucus secreted by the nostrils, till the following summer, by which time the grubs are an inch long. At some time between the middle of April and the end of July, these larvae attain their full growth, and seek to escape from their prison. They give great annoyance to the sheep at this time, causing them to continually stamp their feet and sneeze violently. After leaving the head of the sheep, they enter the ground, and become hard, brown pupa. From these the flies emerge in from forty to sixty days, and may be seen on the rails and fences in the neighborhood of a flock of sheep till September, and they may then be easily destroyed. The fly—magnified, is smaller than the size of the larva would indicate, and is of a brownish tint, with five black rings on the back. The head of the fly is large in size, and of a yellowish hue. The wings almost cover the body, and are prettily striped and veined.

The popular theory that the grub causes death by boring through the walls of the brain, is absurd. The experiments of VALISNIER go to show that the *Cestrus ovis* never enters; and this is the now received opinion.

Few sheep are exempt from the presence of these grubs, and they may, and probably do, add to the irritation of the animal when affected with catarrh. But it is the fly that produces the evil ascribed to this insect, by the annoyance it causes the sheep while endeavoring to form a lodgement for its eggs, in the warm weather of summer.

The best preventative of the attacks of this insect is to thoroughly tar the noses of the sheep in the early part of summer, and to mix a little tar with their salt occasionally. Tobacco smoke, when forced into the nostrils of the sheep, will cause the worms to drop out of their perisph. Or, take four ounces of Scotch snuff, and pour over it a quart of boiling water; stir it well; and when cold, take a syringe and inject about a tablespoonful up each nostril. The sheep should be placed on its back, with its head on the ground. Force the mixture as much as possible into the cavities of the head, keeping the point of the syringe up for this purpose, or the liquid will run into the throat. It will make the sheep very drunk, but no danger need be apprehended.—Genesee Farmer.

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This compound will be found a great promoter of health, when taken in the spring, to expel the foul humors which fester in the blood at that season of the year. By the timely expulsion of them many rankling disorders are nipped in the bud. Multitudes can, by the aid of this remedy, spare themselves the endurance of four eruptions and ulcerous sores, through which the system will strive to rid itself of corruptions, if not assisted to do this through the natural channels of the body by an alterative medicine. Cleanse out the vitiated blood whenever you find its impurities bursting through the skin in pimples, eruptions, or sores; cleanse it when you find it is obstructed and sluggish in the veins; cleanse it whenever it is foul, and your feelings will tell you when. Even where no particular disorder is felt, people enjoy better health, and live longer for cleansing the blood. Keep the blood healthy, and all is well; but with this purgation of life disordered, there can be no lasting health. Sooner or later something must go wrong, and the great machinery of life is disordered or overturned.

Sarsaparilla has, and deserves much, the reputation of accomplishing these ends. But the world has been egregiously deceived by preparations of it, partly because the drug alone has not all the virtue that is claimed for it, but more because many preparations, pretending to be concentrated extracts of it, contain but little of the virtue of Sarsaparilla or any thing else.

During late years the public have been misled by large bottles, pretending to give a quart of Extract of Sarsaparilla for one dollar. Most of these have been frauds upon the sick, for they not only contain little, if any, Sarsaparilla, but often no curative properties whatever. Hence, bitter and painful disappointment has followed the use of the various extracts of Sarsaparilla which flood the market, until the name itself is justly despised, and has become synonymous with imposition and cheat. Still we call this compound Sarsaparilla, and intend to supply such a remedy as shall recure the name from the load of obloquy which rests upon it. And we think we have ground for believing it has virtues which are irresistible to the cure. In order to secure their complete eradication from the system, the remedy should be judiciously taken according to directions on the bottle.

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