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MOORE'S RURAL NEW YORKER,
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RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

CONDUCTED BY D. D. T. MOORE.

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AGRICULTURAL.

LIQUID MANURE.

NEXT in importance to the making and saving of manure, is the proper time and way of applying it to the crops. If we fully understood the methods by which the food deposited in the earth is brought to the proper condition to be absorbed and enter into the material of the plants, we could by the aid of Capital and Science furnish it to better advantage, and with greater profit. When we put raw and solid manure into the ground, it must manifestly undergo great changes before it enriches the soil. It is decomposed, and its component parts, to a certain extent, separated. Gases are evolved which are retained by the earth, or escape and mingle with the air, whence they are fed to leaves. The solid portions that remain are absorbed and dissolved by water, and in connection with great quantities of that fluid, are taken up by the roots. Undoubtedly while these processes are going on great waste takes place. Part is carried too far down by the rains into porous subsoils, and some of it may throw off much of its richness into the air.

And again, it is possible that chemical action may fix a portion in an insoluble state, so that it may remain a long time inert. Nature deposits all manure on the surface, and the rain absorbs its fertilizing qualities, and carries them, largely diluted, downward to the roots. We should take a hint from this. Art may assist and extend, as it were, the operations of Nature, but as far as she carries her working she never makes a mistake. Nature carries manure to plants in a liquid form. She only mingles the surface with it in its solid state. If thus we go so far as to convert all of our fertilizers into liquid form, and largely dilute them with water and apply it "as the rain falls," have we not the most perfect and economical method of enriching our land that experience and science can devise? In China and Japan, where the land subsists more people to the square mile than any other country, and where from necessity it is forced to produce, likewise, more, this way is generally adopted. In England, also, systems have, to some extent, been devised and put in practice by which manure in its liquid state is exclusively used. And it is mainly for the purpose of introducing some instances of success with such systems that this article is written. Not everywhere, at present, do we suppose it would pay to incur the expense necessary to apply liquid manure, but there are numerous localities, near large towns, where, for market gardening and raising small fruits, we think it would pay. We quote from the Report of the American Institute, 1863-4:

"Sir JOSEPH PAXTON collects, at Chatsworth, the manure water from water closets, horse dung and other sources, into large covered cisterns. The waste also of a small bath is emptied into one of these, by which means the solution becomes thin. The liquid so collected passes almost immediately into a state of incipient decomposition, and becomes well fitted for the pabulum of vegetation. When drawn off for use, it is greatly diluted with water, and never supplied except when the plants are in a state of

active growth. At any other time, he thinks the effect would be prejudicial. It is used by Sir JOSEPH liberally on vine borders, melons, cucumbers, pines, peaches, and various other fruits, with the most powerful and satisfactory effects. In fact, the use of plant-food in a liquid state, if properly prepared and administered, supercedes the necessity for manure in the solid form; and the produce in favor of the liquid predominates in a wonderful degree—being richer in color, larger in quantity, greater in weight, and of superior flavor.

"JOHN MITCHELL, Lord ELLESMORE'S gardener, states that he has never seen any manure produce so good a crop of berries as the liquid. Solid manure, he says, often causes a crop of strawberries to be lost, by forcing the growth of leaves. He applies the liquid just when the plants are forming their flower buds, and the strength of the manure is spent in forming fruit instead of leaves. When the plants were bearing it could be seen to a plant how far the irrigation extended."

Where it is intended to apply liquid manure regularly, and on a large scale, some permanent fixtures would be wanted. Tanks, for holding water and making the manure, should be constructed, if possible, on ground higher than the land to be manured. A spring for supplying water would be convenient. This arrangement would be greatly economical, as it would save employing a steam engine or some other power to force the liquid along the pipes and hose. From these tanks iron pipes—gas pipe would be cheap and handy—would lead to the fields where hydrants should be attached. Any length of hose could be used. It is estimated that fifteen hundred and fifty yards of three-inch pipe, seven hydrants and two hundred yards of hose, would convey the liquid to every part of a hundred acre farm.

"MR. ROMILLY has a farm near Bristol Channel, on which he has completed the following works for systematically applying liquid manure to about one hundred acres of land. There is first an open fresh-water tank, supplied by land drainage, and holding about 56,000 gallons; there are three collecting tanks and one mixing. There is no steam engine on the farm; the present application is entirely by gravitation. Sluices are put down in the tanks, and when these are drawn in the fresh-water tank and one of the collecting tanks, the stream flows into a mixing tank, and thence through iron pipes to the fields to be irrigated. In these fields hydrants are put down at distances of one hundred and twenty yards, and the distribution is by sixty feet of gutta percha hose and a jet pipe with a flattened orifice to discharge the stream in a thin sheet. The whole apparatus, including tanks, pipes for fifty acres, cost \$1,500. By reference to the aggregate capacity of the tanks they will be found capable of fertilizing five hundred acres instead of one. The stock on this farm producing manure, is on the average, thirty-six dry and feeding cattle, two hundred and ten sheep, nine working horses, one hack, four or five young horses, and thirty hogs. No houses contribute to the liquid manure, but all the cattle sheddings, piggeries, stables and other farm buildings, and the percolations of the solid manure heaps, goes into the tanks. One man, whose wages are fifty cents per day, can empty the mixing tank twice in a day, and in so doing will go over four acres."

As yet the manure is applied chiefly to grass, and with such uniform success that the production of eleven feet of grass during the season is hardly considered a good crop. The meadows below Edinburg, that are watered by the sewage of the town—the very best of liquid manure—are cut four times in a season. When we consider that an apparatus for applying manure in the liquid form, when once made is permanent, that it saves heavy carting of manure, and that it can be put on the crop at various times during its growth, stimulating it at periods when a vigorous growth would be productive of most fruit, that it is saving of manure by furnishing it in the right state for immediate use, it seems to be a valuable improvement on the present method. If not practical and large scale on farms, at least it would be for gardens, and for permanent meadows that are situated handily.

This subject should receive attention and investigation from American farmers. Though the use of liquid manure may never become common in this country, there is no doubt many of our soil cultivators could save and apply it very advantageously. Experiments on a limited scale will soon enable any one to decide as to the practicability and profit of liquid manuring.

THE PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE.

THE late Hon. EDWARD EVERETT, in an address before the Agricultural Society of the State of New York, after speaking of the claims of the other pursuits of life, says:—"With greater reason it might be claimed for Agriculture, that it supplies the first wants of our nature—the daily call of the great family of man for his daily bread—the call that must be answered before the work of life, high or low, can begin.

I must confess that there has always seemed to me something approaching the sublime in this view of Agriculture, which (such is the effect of familiarity) does not produce an impression on our minds in proportion to the grandeur of the idea. We seem, on the contrary, to take for granted, that we live by a kind of mechanical necessity, and that our frames are like watches, made, if such a thing were possible, to go without winding up, in virtue of some innate principle of subsistence independent of our wills, which is, indeed, in other respects, true. But it is not less true that our existence, as individuals or communities, must be kept up by a daily supply of food, directly or indirectly furnished by Agriculture; and that, if this supply should wholly fall for ten days, all this multitudinous, striving, ambitious humanity, these nations and kindred and tribes of men, would perish from the face of the earth, by the most ghastly form of dissolution. Strike out of existence, at once, ten days' supply of eight or ten articles, such as Indian corn, wheat, rye, potatoes, rice, millet, the date, the banana, and the bread fruit, with half a dozen others, which serve as the forage of the domestic animals, and the human race would be extinct. The houses we inhabit, the monuments we erect, the trees we plant, stand in some cases for ages; but our own frames—the stout limbs, the skillful hands that build the houses, and set up the monuments, and plant the trees—have to be built up, re-created, every day; and this must be done from the fruits of the earth, gathered by Agriculture. Everything else is luxury, convenience, comfort; food is indispensable.

Then consider the bewildering extent of this daily demand and supply, which you will allow me to place before you in a somewhat coarse, mechanical illustration. The human race is usually estimated at about one thousand millions of individuals. If the sustenance of a portion of these multitudinous millions is derived from other sources than agriculture, this circumstance is balanced by the fact that there is a great deal of agricultural produce raised in excess of the total demands for food. Let then the thoughtful husbandman who desires to form a just idea of the importance of his pursuit, reflect when he gathers his little flock about him to partake the morning's meal, that one thousand millions of fellow-men have awakened from sleep that morning, craving their daily bread, with the same appetite which reigns at his family board; and that if, by a superior power, they could be gathered together, at the same hour for the same meal, they would fill both sides of five tables reaching all around the globe where it is broadest, seated side by side, and allowing eighteen inches to each individual, and that these tables are to be renewed twice or thrice every day. Then let him consider that, in addition to the food of the human race, that of all the humble partners of man's toil—the lower animals—is to be provided in like manner. These all wait upon agriculture, as the agent of that Providence which giveth them their meat in due season; and they probably consume in the aggregate an equal amount of produce; and finally, let him add in imagination to this untold amount of daily food for man and beast, the various articles which are furnished, directly or indirectly from the soil, for building material, furniture, clothing and fuel.

The grand total will illustrate the primary importance of Agriculture, considered as the steward, the commissary—charged with supplying this almost inconceivable daily demand of the human race, and the subject animals for their daily bread; a want so imperative and uncompromising, that death in its most agonizing form is the penalty of a failure in the supply."

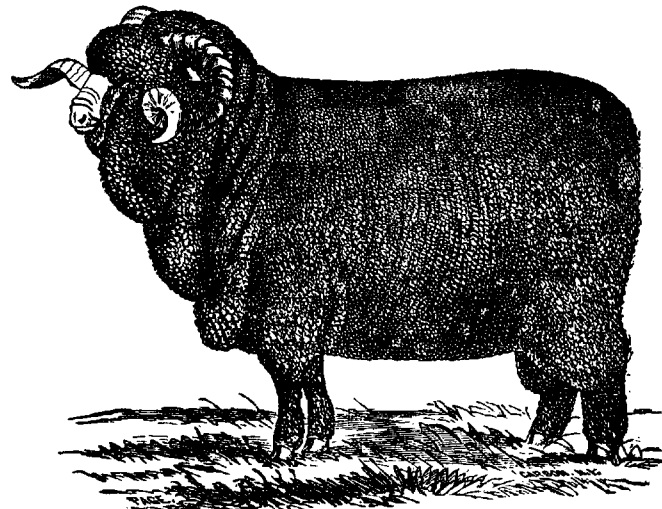
—The above is worthy of being read and pondered by the million, and especially by farmers who do not appreciate the paramount importance of a calling which feeds and clothes all. Farmers' sons who seek occupations they consider nobler than agriculture, should weigh the subject carefully before deciding.

Sheep Husbandry.

EDITED BY HENRY S. RANDALL, LL. D.

MR. POTTLE'S SHEEP.

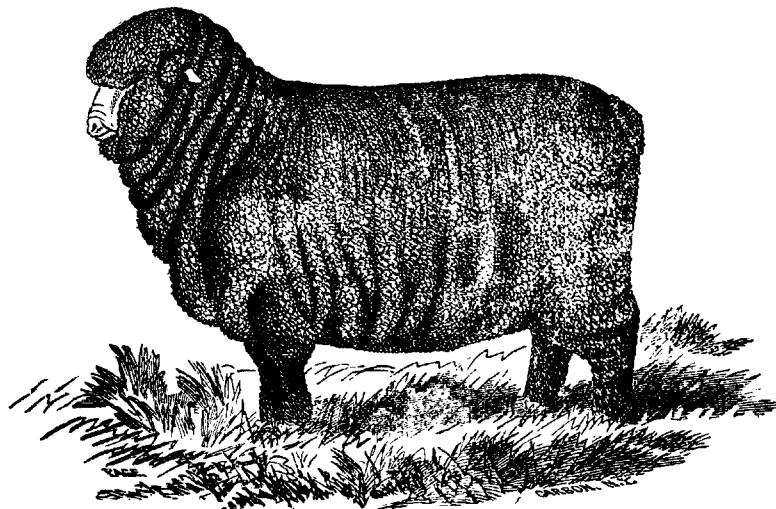
HON. E. B. POTTLE, Naples, Ontario Co., N. Y., writes to us:—"The seven-year old ram 'Frank,' now owned by myself and I. S. GOODRICH of Lima, N. Y., was bought by me when a



FRANK.

lamb, and was bred by EDGAR SANFORD of West Cornwall, Vt. He was out of one of his best ewes by the 'Treadway and Sanford ram,' bred by EDWIN HAMMOND. The last named ram was got by Mr. HAMMOND'S 'Wrinkly.' Frank is compactly built, very short in the leg, and weighs, when in condition, 155 pounds. His wool is exceedingly well set on, his highest weight of fleece of twelve months' growth being

HAMMOND'S 'Long Wool.' Ontario's dam was a pure Infantado ewe got by the 'Cross Ram.' The last won the first prize at the Vermont State Fair, and also at the U. S. Fair. For his pedigree, see pedigree of WM. R. SANFORD'S sheep in RURAL NEW-YORKER last year. 'Ontario' received the first prize in his class at the N. Y. State Sheep Fair in May. The cut shows him as he appeared a teg last February."



BELLE.

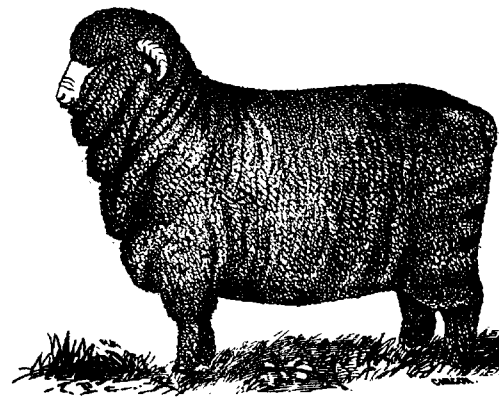
25 pounds—average weight of four consecutive fleeces, 22½ pounds. He is well known in Western New York as a stock ram. In his prime he was, taking all his points together, entitled to rank among the best specimens of American Merinos in New York."

"BELLE, owned by me, now two years old, was bred by R. J. JONES, West Cornwall, Vt.

AMERICAN PRIZE SHEEP AT HAMBURG.

In the Practical Shepherd, page 433, we stated that GEORGE CAMPBELL of Westminster, Vt., took American Merino sheep to exhibit at the International Exhibition at Hamburg, in July, 1863; that "Mr. CAMPBELL found 1,761 sheep competing in the same class with his own;" that Mr. CAMPBELL was awarded the first prize of fifty thalers for the best ram, the second prize of twenty-five thalers for the second best ram, and the first prize of fifty thalers for the best ewes.

We also gave various particulars going to show under what a cloud of difficulties this great victory was won; that the German press and public murmured at the decision of the Judges; that thereupon Col. DANIEL NEEDHAM, who was Commissioner of the State of Vermont at the Exhibition, after conferring with the U. S. Commissioner (Governor WRIGHT) and Mr. CAMPBELL, published a card in the German tongue proposing a sweepstakes open to all the previous competitors, the award to be made by a new Committee selected by the German association under whose direction the Hamburg Exhibition took place; that Mr. CAMPBELL immediately entered his sheep, but that his was the



ONTARIO.

She was got, I learn from Mr. JONES, by a ram owned by SIMON ROCKWELL, purchased by him, of WILLIAM R. SANFORD, and got by SANFORD'S 'Comet.' Belle's dam was a pure Atwood ewe, purchased by Mr. JONES of RUTHER P. HALL and C. B. COOK. She received

