

The Farm.

THE USE OF THE ROLLER.

Judge Watts at the head of the Agricultural Bureau, speaks strongly in favor of the roller as a destroyer of insects. Of all the implements for use upon the farm, there is no one which tells of greater benefits than the roller. It pulverizes the clods, smooths the surface for the scythe or the reaper, and compacts the earth about the seed and roots of plants; but above all, and of more importance than all, it DESTROY THE VERMIN. That the earth SHOULD be made fine is the object of plowing and harrowing. The roller greatly conduces to this. That small stones and rough places should be driven out of the way of the scythe or mower, is a desideratum which every farmer will appreciate, and when his seed is first sown, or when the frosty winter has passed, and the spring has loosened its growth upon the surface, it may be imagined how IT WOULD BE BENEFITED BY GIVING IT A BED IN THE EARTH AGAIN.

the path of the ewe, causing such a degree of fright as to impress the marks of the skunk upon the fetus. This is only an analogous instance, with results quite as singular, as observed in the offspring of the human species, produced by highly exciting circumstances during pregnancy. Mr. Henshaw, in his essay on the subject in question, published in the BRITISH QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, says: "Being fully convinced of the power of the male on the offspring, I have always accounted it as a loss to put a bad male to a high bred female, and have never done so. I have, however, observed, where the country people have purchased high bred sheep at my sale of mine, and bred from them with ordinary rams, that the breed very quickly got bad; whereas, when a Bakewell ram had been purchased, I have seen a most remarkable change in the quality of the sheep for the better." Another English writer, who has written on the subject of the most domesticated animals often bears a striking resemblance to the grandmother or grandfather, and it is well known that the desired changes cannot be effected on a breed, or that the desired breed cannot be produced, till the third, fourth, or even the fifth crossing, so that the importance of avoiding defects in stock will rapidly be admitted, seeing their debasing consequences are carried through whole generations, and that, though absent in one remove, yet that they may appear in the next."

feel, I concluded to try an experiment. I therefore selected of the largest size removed to plant one row of about a hundred hills in length, put one in a hill whole, and drove a stake at the end. I then selected of the small kind about the size of a hen's egg, and put two in a hill. They were planted side by side, cultivated alike, and when dug they were accurately measured in a half-bushel. The average was one bushel from twelve hills of the large seed, and one "do." from seventeen of the small. Those from the large seed were nearly all large and merchantable, while those of the small were variable in size and something like the parent stock. I have tried the experiment several times since, with about the same result. A fair crop can be raised from small seeds providing the soil is rich and a favorable season to grow, as it takes more time for small seed to mature. When potatoes are scarce I would prefer to plant the eyes of the large than to plant small ones. Every farmer should know that the laws of nature teach that the best selections of all crops should be preferred for seed.

The farmer who buys commercial fertilizers and stimulates his land with them is every year growing poorer; the farmer who sows clover, timothy, and other permanent crops, is every year growing richer. The latter will not make such large crops this year or next, but at the end of twenty or even ten years, his farm will be worth more than now, while that of the former will be exhausted. No guide for manuring is so accurate as that which nature herself gives. She made the rich soil by adding vegetable matter to it, and we not only keep up its fertility but add to it by the same course.

As an instance to show these "debasing consequences" may be prolonged through defect of the male, the following is stated, having occurred many times since in my own flock: I purchased a Saxon ram, distinguished for perfection of form and firmness of wool, but objectionable on account of lightness of fleeces and shortness of staple; he was used, however, for two successive years. The ram exhibited a peculiarity about his eyes which protruded so far as to give him a ludicrous aspect, and consequently he received the soubriquet of "bulge eye;" in addition to this his pat was entirely bare of wool, and nothing but the fineness of his fleeces induced his usage. But strange as it may appear, for more than ten years after after a "straggler" would now and then appear whose eyes and fleece were the very counterpart of the ram in question, and the novelty of the circumstance was the dams were as perfect in all respects as the average of the flock, and entirely free from the peculiarities described in the ram. The above strongly manifested the influence of the male and affords a striking lesson to the flock-master to avoid a more perfect complement of his flock, no matter how slight, in his stock, as irreparable injury may follow if it is neglected; and this remark is applicable to all other domestic animals. It is supposed by some that the sex of the progeny is determined by the relative ages of the parents, thus; issue from a young male and an old female will be generally feminine, while that from an old male and a young female will generally be masculine. I have little confidence in this theory, consequently never thought it worth the trouble of an experiment. The point is noticed that others may make the trial if in doubt.

HOW INDIAN CORN GROWS. When a kernel of corn is planted in a moist soil having a temperature about equal to Summer heat, moisture will soon find a passage through the spongy hull and cell-walls of the kernel to its embryo, and coming in contact with the starch, which has been wisely stored, a strong solution will be formed, from which several roots are thrown out in various directions through the soil, soon after which the germ expands, forces its passage to the surface of the ground in the form of a round pointed spike, where it continues to unfold until we see the tall stalk waving gracefully in the breeze, bearing the full corn in the golden ear. If the soil is rich and mellow, many of the roots will have spread more than a foot in every lateral direction from the kernel before the plumule or stem has formed leaves three inches in length. As soon as the roots have appeared, vegetable life is unfolded to such a degree that the solution and the miniature plant have the power of decomposing water so long as the proper temperature is maintained. Should the temperature fall to about 50 deg. the process of germination will be arrested, the starch in solution will rapidly escape, and the seed will not. If a temperature of Summer heat can be maintained, there will be a rapid union between the oxygen in the water which enters the kernel and some of the carbon of the solution, when the product will be expelled as carbonic acid. The oxygen which is absorbed by the kernel induces the formation of the cell, when an actual ferment ensues, during which heat is generated, carbonic acid gas is exhaled, and the starch is changed into soluble sugar as pabulum for promoting the development of the young plant before the roots have attained sufficient size to draw a supply from the soil. The roots spread through the soil like long hairs beset with numerous minute branches, the extremities of which are provided with spongy or mouth-like for taking up exceedingly small atoms of plant-food and conveying it through the roots to the stem. Let a hand-hoe be thrust into the ground around about the young plant, and a large proportion of the feeders will be severed. The same is true when any implement is run so near the growing corn that the long roots are mutilated. If the roots are cut off, the growth of the young plant must be arrested until others can be produced. Whoever will dig carefully around a hill of corn and wash the soil from the roots, will be surprised to see how much the crop is frequently injured by improper cultivation. Our best farmers manage their corn in such a manner that the growing crop requires very little use of the plow and hand-hoe. Hence the roots are mutilated only to a limited extent. The foregoing facts will teach those farmers who use a plow among their growing corn, that the plow is a knife which the implement will do untold damage by mutilating the long roots that have spread out between the rows to take up the fertilizing material which may be two feet distant from the hills. The use of the plow and hoe should always be discontinued when the roots of Indian corn are about twenty inches high. If no noxious weeds appear after this, let them grow until they are a foot high, then pull them. This will process the corn roots will not be mutilated.

Potato Seed. From the N. Y. Times. In reading the Harboursville, N. Y. writes, "I have a number of the N. Y. Times, and I see there are conflicting opinions in regard to planting small potatoes. Some thirty-four or thirty-five years ago, when a boy, hearing the subject discussed, in regard to large and small

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