

In using the scraper or sweep, put the most skillful plowmen, with the slowest mules, at the work of running round. It diminishes immensely the labor of the hoe-hands, who follow, to have the work done in the best style. A fast horse, by his irregular gait, causes the sweep frequently to cover up the young plants, and it is most difficult to keep your implement at the proper gauge to ensure good work, both as to depth and distance from the drill. "Slow and sure" amongst the sweeps should be the motto at this stage of cultivation, for grass destroyed in its early growth is gone forever. If the crop is ever irretrievably injured by grass, it is just at this stage of its growth, and nine times out of ten it is this grass which is left at the first working which does the deed. The keen, thin, steel blades of the hoes should be most incessantly plied, chopping through the width of the hoe, and leaving three or four plants in the bunches. In chopping through, in fair and favorable weather, it is preferable on sandy soils, not to pull the chop through entirely, but to slide the hoe back, and let the encised plants and earth fall back in nearly their original position. This does not expose the manure, and prevents the early coming up of all those grass seeds, which, lying too deep to sprout, and being exposed by the chop when it is pulled off the ridge, immediately spring up. This mode does not detract from the facility with which the operation is effected—but with proper slight handily acquired, is easier work.—Particular and close attention is required during the thinning season, for without this, the stand is sacrificed and the main chance for success depends, as much on a good stand as on all other things. Let the sweeps follow immediately after the hoes, and all grass not observed will receive its quietus. After the crop is chopped through, which must be done as rapidly as possible, so that no portion of it suffers from overcrowding which has a tendency to spindle the plants, it should be immediately worked over, and thinned to a proper stand. The hoes should precede or follow the sweeps, as the situation of the crop may seem to indicate; but we should prefer the hoes to go first, in order to eradicate thoroughly all the grass. By raising the right wing of the sweep at this stage of the crop, a sufficient quantity of soil can be thrown to the plants. We consider dirting up cotton with the hoe as a waste of labor, and frequently injurious to its growth, impairing it by interfering with its roots. It is not necessary to plow out the middles entirely until this working, provided they are not becoming too grassy. At

this work, put your fastest mules, as it can be rapidly done without injury to the crop. As often as practicable keep the crust of the land broken.—Do this invariably after rains, and with the sweep alone. The hoe-hands should frequently walk over the fields, and chop out the grass; but this should not be regarded in the light of a working. All late workings should be as superficial as possible, and if the land is properly broken up, properly planted, a good stand secured, the proper elements furnished for the production of the plant and its fruit, and the field kept clean of grass and weeds, no one need despair of making a good crop of cotton. To this we may remark, which is also obvious to sensible men, that in addition we must have the benefit of good seasons, and that the cultivation must, in some measure be modified according to the particular requirements of these seasons. A deep plowing in mid-summer, after long-continued rains, is always ruinous to this crop; but merely breaking of the superficial crust, invariably acts beneficially, and should be done as speedily as possible after the soil is in proper condition to introduce the sweeps or scrapers. Never put a plow of any kind into the cotton field, in order to force ahead work when the soil is so wet as to run together, but use wisdom, and wait until the new turned furrow remains light and porous, for this is the only condition of the soil which is conducive to healthy and profitable vegetable growth. Dr. Burt grew and cultivated a crop upon these principles in 1854, which yielded him seven and a half bales of four hundred pounds to the hand. In 1855 he manured with Kettlewell's compound, No. 1, and Mexican guano, half and half of this mixture, and applied one hundred pounds to the acre. This crop yielded seven and three-fourth bales to the hand, averaging four hundred pounds to the bale. In 1855 he also tried an experiment of one hundred pounds of Mexican guano, with five or six bushels of cotton seed to the acre, with about the same results.

Here, planters of South Carolina, are the results of careful and systematic culture on poor and almost barren soil, remunerating a planter in a most satisfactory manner. Will not those experiments stimulate you to a proper preparation of your soil; and when that is done, will you not strive to incorporate into that soil elements for the production of a paying crop? It would add much to the prosperity of the State if all the breadth of land which is planted in cotton, were as systematically managed.—*South Carolina Agriculturist.*