

## EXHAUSTING THE SOIL.

Is it not a singular fact, that in some of the old States we have had immense tracts of land, thrown out of cultivation, as having become exhausted of the soil, whilst in the old countries of Europe, which have been in cultivation for centuries, the reverse is the case! The soil of Europe, says a traveller, is now better than ever—and the reason he assigns, is the plentiful supply of manures, and manures made upon the best possible system, by which the soil is receiving more back than is taken away in products.

“Of all farm products, [says Mr. Chas. Remelin in the *Ohio Farmer*] the atmosphere and rains furnish the larger quantities of his component parts, and whenever a proper system of manuring exists, the ground must become constantly enriched.

“In Europe, manure is the ever present idea of the farmer, and by gathering all offals, and making manure in any conceivable way, he does not only by green manuring, such as plowing clover under, but by stable, factory, street, and dwelling manure, take good care to return to mother earth the rental she requires, and to do it without grudging and with compound interest. Soil is only there exhausted where crops are raised which are entirely removed, and of which nothing is returned to the soil—for instance, tobacco. This is very little the case in Europe. The fine wheat crops, which smile upon the traveler, as he is rushed past them by railroad speed, would be an impossibility, if the idea of exhaustion were true. The meadows, two which are mown thrice every year, and each time give a good crop, have been mown for ages, contradicting this exhaustion theory. No! the European farmer, and his land, are always on good terms with each other. The man yields good husbandry and the land yields good crops.”

## WINTER PLOWING.

As there are many parts of the country in which our *Journal* circulates where winter plowing can almost always be advantageously executed, and others where, under favorable circumstances of the season it can be done at times, we advise all who have stiff clayey grounds that they intend for spring culture; to seize upon all occasions during winter, when the soil is not wet, to plough up such lands to plough it as deep as the soil will admit, to lap the furrows.—When spring arrives, and the ground is sufficiently dry to be worked without danger of being poached by the horses' feet, to roll it with a heavy roller, and finish the pulverization, by harrowing lengthwise the furrows. The earlier the ploughing is done this month the greater will be the meliorating influence derived from the frost.—*American Farmer*.

## HEREFORD CATTLE.

The Herefords are a distinct breed of neat cattle, and have long been bred to a considerable extent in England where they are held in high estimation, especially for grazing. Their introduction and dissemination in this country has been comparatively slow, and hence they are yet little known in many sections. Of the late years, however, they have gained more rapidly in public favor, and now rank as a most beautiful and profitable breed. Marshall gives the following description of the Hereford:

“The countenance pleasant, cheerful, open; the forehead broad; eyes full and lively; horns bright, taper, spreading; head small; chops lean; neck long and tapering; chest deep; bosom broad and projecting forward, shoulder-bone thin, flat, no way protuberant in bone, but full and mellow in flesh; chest full; loins broad; hips standing wide and level with the chine; quarters long and wide at the neck; rump even with the level of the back, not drooping nor standing high and sharp above the quarters; tail slender and neatly haired; barrel round and roomy; the carcass throughout deep and well spread; ribs broad, standing flat and close on the out surface, forming a smooth even barrel, the hindermost large and full of strength; round-bone, small, snug and not prominent; thighs clean, and regularly tapering; legs upright and short; bone below the knee and hock small; feet of middle size; flank large; flesh every where mellow, soft and yielding pleasantly to the touch; color a middle red, with bald face, characteristic of the true Herefordshire breed.”

## CLOVER.

From some suggestion in the *Ohio Cultivator*, on the cultivation of clover, we make the following extract, containing some valuable practical information:

“Clover wants potash, soda, magnesia, &c., as there is in every half ton of clover, twenty-three pounds of carbonic acid, sixteen pounds of potash, forty pounds of soda, eight pounds of magnesia.—These are taken from the soil, and on burning the clover, will be found in the ashes. Half a ton of clover—or eleven hundred pounds in exact weight—will make one hundred pounds of ashes; and in these ashes will be found the ingredients, and in the proportion we have mentioned, as well as phosphoric acid, sulphuric acid, chlorine, and sand in smaller quantities.”

“Continued cropping of clover, taking these ingredients from the soil, will soon exhaust it, and unless they are supplied, the soil must cease to produce clover. Ashes contain potash; plaster contains sulphuric acid, salt contains soda and chlorine; and