THE PIPE OF THOUGHT

in its most valuable form for plant growth. There are a great number of legumes, and many of them are used annually by agriculturists—all the clover family, the red, crimson and white; the plant called lucerne by botanists, and blue clover or alfalfa by just folks; sweet clover, generally considered a weed; all the bean family, particularly the soy or soja; all the peas, especially the Canadian field pea and the cow pea; the lucernes and the vetches. Each particular variety has its champions who have reasons for their favoritism, some of them valid and some of them lacking conclusive proof.

On Long Island, years of experience have proven crimson clover to be absolutely hardy, hence as it is a remarkable gatherer of nitrogen, and a very strong grower with an immense number of leaves, it is particularly valuable as a fodder crop. To some it would not appeal because it should be planted fairly early. As a matter of fact, in this region it may be planted any time between June and the middle of September. Rye and vetch form a good combination, and this combination crop can be planted even in November. Such things as cow peas, Canadian field peas, soy beans, etc., are summer growers. They are killed by frosts, and, while they grow very strongly and even when dead form a protecting mat, they are not as valuable for a winter cover as the hardy crops, which include alfalfa. This latter is just coming into use as a cover crop and nitrogen gatherer. It has in the past been grown as an immensely valuable fodder crop alone. So, in summing up, we find the cover crop’s value lies in the fact that it keeps the soil just where it belongs, that vegetable matter is being continually supplied and that nitrogen is being automatically and cheaply added to one’s acres.

THE PIPE OF THOUGHT

THE Pipe of Thought,—a slender pipe,
    A single mystic reed;
Whose fragile throat flutes out a song
    That Time alone has freed.

EUGENE BLAISDELL BAKER.