The decomposition of these long roots tends to enrich as well as to lighten the soil as deep as they penetrate. In these times of low prices and sharp competition, with a soil somewhat exhausted by continuous crops with wheat, it is not easy for the farmer to decide what crops to plant. Insect enemies in the wheat and corn; cholera among the swine, and pleura-pneumonia among cattle, and glanders among horses. To arrest these scourges of our agricultural interest, the man of science has combined with the law-maker; the first to discover a remedy, the last to enforce it.

Let us as intelligent men and women avail ourselves of these better ways. Better breeds of stock, better understanding of the laws of natural increase. Better ways of curing and saving feed; better ways of manufacturing dairy products, and become a wiser, better and nobler race of men.

Young Sheep the Most Profitable.

[From Good Farming.]

It has been alleged that a sheep aged two years yields a greater or heavier quantity of flesh than a sheep one year old. But this is fallacy. It is now ascertained that a sheep from its birth till it is one year old makes as much flesh as one double that age, provided the young sheep be fed plentifully, carefully and methodically; that is to say that there be no starvation or short common stoppages in the rations. Now it is a law of physiological growth that the time lost by insufficient feeding or the absence of sanitary care in the development of animals can never be recovered. In the first year of its growth, the assimilation of food is thus lost in the system; all is supplied to build up, nothing is demanded in repairs. At one year old the period of development in a measure terminates, and henceforward the animal has not only to feed to keep up life, but to repair the daily waste of tissues. Thus more food is necessary to produce a pound of flesh when, after one year old the tissues have to be repaired, than before and up to that period, when all vitality is not repairing waste, but developing growth. It has been demonstrated that the quantity of meat produced by sheep delivered to the butcher at the precocious age of from nine to fifteen months cost exactly half the expense of those fed to double that age. By bringing the animals early to the block, we reduce risks, and labor, and time, which in this, as in everything else, means money. The great fight amongst the mutton breeds of sheep hereafter must hinge on the matter of early maturity more than on any thing else.

Keeping Horses Shod.

[From the American Cultivator.]

Horses kept in use either on the farm or road need to be well shod, and never more than during winter. Frozen roads are all the worse on horses' hoofs from the fact that the latter are more apt to be brittle than during warmer weather. The hoof does not grow so rapidly in winter; but with some horses it grows unevenly, requiring frequent resetting to avoid sprains. Teams at work will well pay for good shoeing in increased efficiency, besides preventing danger from accidents. Horses kept on hard, frozen and icy roads should be kept sharp shod. Any other policy is cruel as well as dangerous.

Who is the Successful Farmer?

[By J. A. Curtis, of Patch Grove.]

"Our success is what we make it; joy waits for those who take it. Patience, energy, smiles and pluck, mine and coin and stamp success."

That is what are the principles and practices to which successful farmers owe their success. The successful farmers of to-day, as a class, keep up with the progress of the times, and admit science and intellect into the fields and the barnyard, and give employment to the brains as well as the hands. They see that only in the light of science can labor, such as the farm requires, be made attractive and elevating. Changes, innovation, improvements, are going on everywhere in the fields and household of the successful farmer. When thought, and order, and scientific rules, and good, practical sense regulate and direct the farm, the owner is sure to be a successful man. Thought is necessary to make work honorable. Thought makes the farmer a skillful tiller of the soil, and it adds dignity to labor. Hence it is the great educator of the intellectual and moral development of man.

Many men who have accumulated a competency by farming, when the land was new, are far from being successful farmers in the true sense of the word.