

or the human species, they are there conducted with a portion of promptitude, address, and facility by the common practitioners, to which our robed and charioted professors in this country are incompetent. If farriery were not to be improved from the lectures, opinions, and practice of the French college, from whence should we derive information? No lectures are here given, no opinions are here formed, and no practice is here adopted, that would not disgrace the disciples of Argentinus.

V. A. again complains of the new medical nomenclature. From respect to this gentleman, I must not forget that I am speaking to a learned professor; I am therefore to conclude, that he is perfectly conversant in the comparative merit of the ancient and modern pharmacopoeia, whether under the hands of Bauderon, Quercetan, Zweler, Charas, Bates, Salmon, Lemery, or Quincey.

" Ambubaiarum collegia, *pharmacopolae*

" Mendici, minae, balatrones."

Need I remind him of the absurdities into which these compilers have fallen, to convince him of the necessity of a treatise on a new system, describing the preparations in their several kinds, their uses and mode of application. In the instance he adduces, does the appellative, "Glauber's Salt," taken from an arbitrary name, imply the vitriolic acid, and mineral alkali, of which it is composed?

I am very happy at least, that we agree on the subject of Mr. Taplin. His publications have sold; and except a little indulgence of the most egregious vanity, the profits of the sale was the object of the publication: his works are now sent "to sleep with Quark's"—the opiate was fatal, and precluded the possibility of resuscitation.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

Warwick-lane, Jan. 4, 1804.

LUCUS MEDICUS.

ON THE AGRICULTURE OF KENT,

To the Editor of the Agricultural Magazine.

SIR,

I Observe into your last publication you have introduced the result of my observations on the agriculture of Shropshire, and I see in your address to correspondents, you have very properly invited the attention of those gentlemen who possess an accurate local knowledge, of that county. I am conscious, painfully so, that it is impossible for one person to give a correct general view of provincial agriculture, and I wish the exertion of the task I have undertaken to be examined with a

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scrutinizing eye, that my errors may not mislead those who are willing to receive useful information.

While I was directing my thoughts to the commencement of that paper as it appears in your Magazine, my vagrant attention caught the name of my old friend John Hodges, of Aberford, who attributes to me "a wild and adventurous exercise of rampant curiosity." He will recollect the impertinent and inquisitive spirit with which I collected at his hospitable board information on the agriculture of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and on the management of the extensive farms in the estates of Sir John Goodricke. I expect, therefore, that by the next opportunity he will not attribute to me that species of pernicious extravagance in my pursuits and enquiries.

The subject of this communication is the agriculture of the county of Kent, in which I shall have an opportunity of noticing an implement that is new to your correspondent. *Agricola Norfolciensis*, and which certainly deserves to be added to the numerous mechanical improvements of the county in which he resides. I shall consider myself sufficiently rewarded for the trouble I have taken in collecting these materials if I impart a single idea that shall be adopted into the practice of such an intelligent correspondent. When I come to speak of the agriculture of the district where he resides, and the adjacent county, it will seem as if I were giving a dispensation on the highest state of modern attainment in the art, instead of treating on the condition in which it appears within a contracted limit of the kingdom.

KENT.

The county of Kent is bounded on the north and east by the Thames and the sea, on the south by Sussex, and on the west by Surry. It is 58 miles in length, and 46 in breadth, and it contains 39,340 houses, 235,440 inhabitants, 408 parishes, and 31 market towns. The rivers besides the Thames, are, the Medway, the Rowther, the Stour, the Darien, the Ton, and the Wantsheim, and several lesser streams.

Perhaps the extent of this county may be computed at 1,240,000 acres, and I do not much understate the rents at 80s. per acre, including the whole county.

The best land is, in the vicinity of Feversham. The high ground is a stiff flinty loam. The Howlets are a mellow loam. The parish of Ash contains about 7,000 acres, and the rents average at about 25s. Romney Marsh, a district which has all the peculiarities of Dutch agriculture, lets from 40s. to 50s. The parish of Goudhurst rents from 15s. to 25s. but the meadows and hop-grounds, in course, considerably higher. The price in the vicinity of Tunbridge is nearly the same.

If a line be drawn from London to Canterbury, and from thence to Dover, the tract of Kent north of that limit includ-

ing Sandwich, Deal, and the Isle of Thanet, contains ground the best treated of any in the kingdom, excepting the districts of Suffolk and Norfolk. But it will appear singular, that the Wealds of Kent, capable in many parts of great improvement, and of the high condition of cultivation, should be neglected, and a large portion of it abandoned.

The very excellent letter which appeared in your number for September last, from the pen of Dr. Wilkinson, on the Rural Economy of the Isle of Thanet, makes it unnecessary that I should insert a single observation on the farming of that division, and may avail myself of it thus far with respect to the rest of Kent, that the same system of farming is adopted within the limits I have just assigned in the northern parts, as far as the situation and soil will admit of it.

The extent to which the culture of hops is conducted, and the immense income it produces in this county, are too well known to require particular observation ; it however is worth noticing, that the corn crops produced on the scite of the hop garden afford some of the most extravagant examples of the exuberance of nature.

The artificial grasses are well understood, and extensively distributed in this county, and are generally preceded by the excellent rotation of Wheat, Beans, and Barley.

In the neighbourhood of Feversham, a crop of wheat is three and a half to four quarters, and frequently the crops are much more considerable, but perhaps their barley crops are inferior to what might be expected, from the practice of delaying too long the time of depositing the seed.

Beans are the species of pulse principally attended to ; they value the tall bean, because they rightly conceive it the most successfully to smother the weeds. The custom used to be, to drill them at the distance of eighteen inches, in order to plough between that interval during the growth, but the facility of using the horse-hoe, has occasioned these distances to be lessened in every part of the kingdom where it is employed, and it is well known and much used in the county of which I am now speaking.

The prodigious cultivation of potatoes in that part of the county which is adjacent to London, and the large fortunes which have been raised from attention to that part of husbandry, are well known.

In this county they have tried the method of feeding horses on carrots, and on lucerne, and they have found them, by this diet, to be kept in very high working condition.

In the parishes of Ashford, Cranbrooke, Hythe, Tenterden, and Appledore, oxen are worked from three to five years old, they are then fattened with hay, oil cake, and some corn, and sent to market; and this expedient for the culture of then

ground, the farmers consider highly profitable. Also in the country round Tunbridge oxen are generally employed in their teams.

In the neighbourhood of Goudhurst approaching Sussex, the practice of summer fallowing is still continued.

Among the more valuable implements of husbandry is the Horse Shim, an instrument two feet wide, employed for cleaning weeds after harvest, and for cutting the bean stubbles. For further particulars regarding this instrument, I may refer to your own Magazine for November last, in the letter from A. C. page 326. A broad shared plough without a mould-board, is also used for clearing weeds before ploughing, I cannot speak in terms of commendation too high of this neat, useful, and I might say necessary practice for all the purposes of good husbandry. It is to the credit of the Isle of Thanet, that it owes its origin to the intelligent cultivators of that district.

We see in almost all the northern part of this county, some of the best maxims of husbandry pursued.

1st. We never see two crops of white corn succeed each other.

2. The manure is generally applied to the ameliorating crop, as it is called; and this crop is kept perfectly clean, either by the hand or horse hoe, so that the country is rendered a garden.

3. I have just remarked the attention to clearing the weeds before ploughing.

4. Early sowing is generally adopted.

5. Paring and burning is a practice widely extended. They then sow turnips, which are fed off with sheep.

6. The manner of making hay in this county deserves commendation. Instead of letting it lie a long time in the swarth, or in the wind-row, they put it early into grass-cocks, which are gradually increased according to the circumstances of the weather; and the produce is thus soon removed from all danger.

I cannot avoid noticing, with some disapprobation, the perseverance of the Kentish farmers, in performing their team-labour with their cattle at length. The frequent stoppages which occur in the business of the field, occasion the animals, when so arranged, to counteract each other, and to exhaust their strength by ineffectual exertion.

The price of labour is, all round the year, excepting in the harvest time. 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. a day. Reaping wheat, 8s. to as high as 20s.; according to the crop. Mowing spring corn, 2s. to 2s. 6d. Reaping beans, 6s. to 7s. Harvest work, if done by the day, 3s. to 3s. 6d. and board.

I observe some interesting letters between Agricola North-

umbriensis and Meridionalis, on the comparative utility of oxen and horses. The controversy appears to me to be in very good hands, and as my attention has lately been directed to that subject, I shall see with particular pleasure its revival in your miscellany.

There is another enquiry which I should be glad to see treated by the pen of the former; I mean the agriculture of the county of Northumberland, where my notes are very deficient. My detention at the charming Lakes of the neighbouring counties of Westmoreland and Cumberland, afford me a much more abundant means of communicating information in that department of provincial agriculture.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

Dec. 12, 1803.

CHOROGRAPHUS.

ON THE ELEMENTS OF WOOL, AND ON THE STRUCTURE OF
THE FILAMENTS OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

To the Editor, of the Agricultural Magazine.

SIR,

BEING a native of the West, my attention has been drawn to the great article of trade, on which the staple manufacture of this country so materially depends. From the day that the royal Elizabeth, in the sage maxims of her policy, received into this country the ingenious manufacturers of the Netherlands, she imported the respect they had acquired with their connections in Spain, and the confidence they had been accustomed to receive from the parent state to which they were subservient. It was thus that the commerce of this country was established on a foundation, from which a beautiful fabric has arisen, which has commanded the reverence, and attracted the admiration of mankind.

We are now told, Sir, that the Consul of France is not less politic than our favourite heroine, and that this channel of wealth is to be perverted, by the domineering influence of the Court of St. Cloud. If this be the fact, nothing can be more necessary, than the attention which has been recently paid by his Majesty, and by many other intelligent improvers, to render ourselves independent of the supplies of wool from Spain. You have, Sir, exerted your means, by circulating useful knowledge on the subject; I will endeavour, with your assistance, to conduce to the same design, by the cursory observations it is in my power to suggest.

In the computation you have given, under the title *Manufactures and useful Arts*, of your last number, we see that in the short interval of four years, the export of British manu-