

**SKETCH OF LECTURES ON ARTIFICIAL OR  
SOWN GRASSES, AS LUCERN, SAINT-  
FOIN, CLOVERS,  
TREFOILS, VETCHES, &C. &C. DELIVERED  
IN THE DUBLIN SOCIETY'S BOTANICAL  
GARDEN, GLASNEVIN**

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Sketch of Lectures on Artificial or Sown Grasses, as Lucern, Saint-Foin, Clovers, Trefoils, Vetches, &c. &c. Delivered in the Dublin Society's Botanical Garden, Glasnevin by Walter Wade

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**WALTER WADE**

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GLASNEVIN.

BY  
WALTER WADE, ESQ. M. L. S.

OF THE KING AND QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN IRELAND, PHYSICIAN  
TO THE DUBLIN GENERAL DISPENSARY, HONORARY MEMBER OF THE  
DUBLIN SOCIETY, APOTHECARY'S HALL, AND FARMING SOCIETY OF  
IRELAND; PROFESSOR AND LECTURER ON BOTANY TO THE  
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND, AND TO  
THE RIGHT HONORABLE AND HONORABLE THE  
DUBLIN SOCIETY.

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"Hinc fessae pecudes pingues per pabula lacta  
Corpora deponunt, et candens lacteus humor  
Uteribus manat distentis."                      LUCRETIUS.

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## PREFACE.

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THE nature and composition of soils being at this day more properly understood than formerly, and the effects of the various substances, that are used in cultivation, being more clearly defined by our knowledge, and a just application of other sciences, particularly chymistry and botany; extensive improvements have taken place in the important business of tillage; however a great deal more yet remains to be effected in almost every branch of husbandry, particularly in this kingdom; for, we must see, that a very trifling portion even of the cultivated part of Ireland has at this enlightened period been managed judiciously and profitably; many parts exhibit extensive tracts of rich and fertile land, which, it is much to be regretted, are very defectively and unskilfully conducted. Even in Great Britain, where riches and wealth so much abound, that able and judicious writer, Sir John Sinclair, states “ that Great

Britain contains sixty-seven millions of acres, seven millions of which are taken up by houses, roads, rivers, lakes, &c. and consequently incapable of cultivation; and that, of the remaining sixty millions, only five millions are employed in raising grain, and twenty-five millions in pasturage, *while thirty millions are either in a state of waste, or cultivated under a very defective state of husbandry.*" This defect we may fairly attribute, in a great measure, to a want of a better and more complete knowledge of the different branches of science, which are closely connected with agriculture among practical farmers; and it is lamentable to observe, that the very slow progress, which many useful arts have made, proceeds from a want of that coalition, which should subsist between scientific and practical men; the latter too frequently holding in contempt the speculations of the man of science, whilst the former has most reprehensibly looked upon the simple practitioner with indifference. The highly important art of husbandry, amongst other arts, has suffered heretofore materially by this circumstance, the want of a proper intercourse and communication of sentiment between both parties.

But







But it is to be hoped, that the scene is now changed, and that agriculture, the first and the most useful of all the arts, is fixed on a firm foundation, by establishing it on rational and philosophical principles. We have every reason now to expect, that the profession of agriculture will be as honourable amongst us, as it was once amongst the ancient Romans; since some of the first-rate and most distinguished characters in the land, as to talent and station, have condescended to turn their thoughts to the important object of agriculture.

The interest, which the Dublin Society has, upon all occasions, evinced to unite science with agriculture, rural economy, and the useful arts, must, by this time, be gratefully acknowledged and felt by the public—they have directed their different professors to disseminate their knowledge in their respective capacities on the most extended, liberal, and useful plan of education, in order that science may go hand in hand with the useful purposes and accommodations of life, and, if possible, to render its various branches intelligible, and of use to the meanest capacity.